

Icy chill pushes aside memories of summer

WINTER can come suddenly. One week it is an Indian summer; then you open a window and the season has turned.

Watching Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, knocked about at the dispatch box during questions yesterday, we seemed to see a political summer fled as fast. A fortnight ago the Commons scene looked set for a Tory victory. Every question time was the same. Tories asked rude or silly questions. Ministers ignored them. Labour backbenchers asked poodling questions, then rolled onto their backs to have their rummies patted.

Returning to the gallery yesterday felt like returning, not after a

weekend, but after a year on another planet: a year during which goodwill had ebbed slowly away and the Government's credit with its backbenches had gradually been spent. There was a sharpness in the air. Parliament had regained its edge. It was not the same place as we left last Wednesday.

Here is Lynne Jones (Lab, Selby Oak), who asked sarcastically whether ministers thought a weekly payment of £77 to lone mothers was adequate. "What confidence can people have in the Prime Minister's weekend statement about looking after those in need?"

Here is Llew Smith (Lab, Blaenau Gwent), who asked Ms Harman "how many constituents

visiting her surgery this weekend urged her to stick to Tory spending cuts?" Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney N and Stoke Newington) cast doubt on whether Ms Harman's "new deal" for lone parents was actually getting more into work.

Here is David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) insisting, with a wry glance at his front bench, that he himself was "not worried in any way" that the Government might sell out on the disabled. "The Prime Minister says the disabled will be

protected and that's what Labour MPs want. She [Ms Harman] should bear in mind not just Treasury ministers."

These are known leftwingers. What is new is not their views, but a willingness now to lift a more (or less) tentative snout above ground and express them. Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) even took a kick at Ms Harman's scary Minister of State, Frank Field, instead of the easier target presented by the Secretary of State herself. Old

opinions have gathered new muscle in a matter of days.

Less showy, but as interesting, was the worried silence of most loyal backbenchers and the obvious hunger for reassurance of those who spoke. Harman was ill-supported and the cheers were ragged.

As a debater Ms Harman seems incapable of meshing with anything but a repetition of her own opinions. On each new occasion she takes refuge in a new catchphrase. Last time it was "restructuring welfare around the work ethic". Yesterday people did not want to be "written off to a life of dependence on benefits" — as though anyone had suggested they did. Questions are simply ignored

— met with a tin-voiced repetition of the day's mantra.

Frank Field does not ignore questions. When Professor Steven Webb, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, is called to put a question, Skinner is wont to shout "this 'ad better be good", and yesterday Webb was good. Tony Blair, he said, had promised to protect the benefits of disabled people in need. Did Mr Field think any were not in need?

"If he [Webb] thinks they are all equally entitled," replied Field coolly, "his constituents must be different from mine."

In a wolk of tofu from Ms Harman, a shard of blint from Mr Field can break your teeth.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Hague takes traditional route to altar

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE and Ffion Jenkins, who have been living together since July, will revert to tradition on the eve of their wedding day and spend the night apart.

The Tory leader will savour the last moments of bachelorhood on Thursday night with Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic gold medalist, who is his chief of staff.

Wine and beer will be flowing until the early hours at Mr Coe's Surrey home as Mr Hague, 36, puts the finishing touches to the most nerve-racking speech of his life after the ceremony at the Gothic chapel of St Mary Undercroft at the Palace of Westminster.

Miss Jenkins, 29, who will spend the evening at a family dinner, has also adhered to convention. She has denied her husband a glimpse of her wedding dress. Mr Hague has not even been told where she bought it. Only a handful of close friends and family are in the know.

The bride's elder sister, Manon Williams, 32, who is the assistant private secretary to the Prince of Wales, will be the only bridesmaid. There was speculation last night that the eve-of-wedding family dinner would be held in Dr Williams's grace-and-favour apartment at Kensington Palace.

"They are both great believers in the traditions of mar-

riage. They will not be together the night before and William will not see the dress until Ffion walks into the chapel," a Tory official said last night.

They have not always been so conformist. The youngest Tory leader for 200 years became the first to live openly with an unmarried woman when they moved into his rented flat.

The couple have since taken a bigger apartment in the same complex in London. It will be their marital home during the week.

At the party conference in Blackpool Mr Hague had his first disagreement with Bar-

oness Thatcher, who helped him to secure the leadership, when he shared a suite with his fiancée. The former Prime Minister was critical of his decision.

"This is different. You get married only once. They both wanted to do it the right way. I think you will find most brides like to be with their Mum the night before," one of Mr Hague's friends said.

Details of the order of service were being withheld by the Tory leader's office but Miss Jenkins has decided not to promise to obey her future husband.

He, however, is already

obeying the Oxford-educated graduate: he has agreed not to work on Sundays other than in exceptional circumstances and to take one weekend off each month.

Miss Jenkins has agreed to take Mr Hague's name but will continue to use her maiden name as operations director for the Association for British Sponsorship of the Arts.

Only five MPs will be among the 170 guests in the crypt when the couple pledge their vows in English and Welsh.

It was her knowledge of Welsh which kindled the spark of romance when she taught him to sing the National Anthem in her mother tongue when he was Welsh Secretary two years ago.

Three of the MPs, Alan Duncan, his political private secretary, Mr Coe, and David Lidington, his parliamentary aide, will act as ushers along with Nick Cleeve, a school-friend.

The others are Julie Kirkbride, the MP for Bromsgrove, and her husband Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary. The last time they set foot in the chapel was at the end of July for a blessing of their marriage.

The reception is being held at the Speaker's House and the next day the couple will hold a party for the bride's family and friends in Wales before they go on honeymoon.

The location is one of politics' worst kept secrets: they will stay at a series of romantic settings in India and are expected to visit the Taj Mahal, one of the world's most enduring monuments to love.

Wedding presents are pouring in. Each member of the Shadow Cabinet is donating £50 for a gift. The remainder of the 164 Tory MPs gave £10 for their own present.

The latest request for a gift list is from the Conservatives Abroad branch in Pathos, Cyprus. They can choose between fish knives or tea towels.



Shirley Stephen, Patricia Stephen, Isobel Podlesney and Wilma Cameron. Appeal caught public imagination

Anger after trawler bodies are finally brought home

By Shirley English

Tony Blair should hang his head in shame over government failure to help us, say Sapphire families

THE families of the crew of the trawler Sapphire, finally lifted from the sea with the bodies of their loved ones, said yesterday that Tony Blair and his government ministers should hang their heads in shame for refusing to provide financial help for the recovery operation.

Just hours after four bodies found on the vessel, which sank in storms off Peterhead, Grampian, 76 days ago, had been formally identified, Wilma Cameron, mother of one of the victims, said: "We have prayed for this, to get our loved ones home. Now we do know that when you do pray you do get answers."

The families have yet to decide whether to hold a joint funeral for the four men.

Widows Shirley Stephen, 24, Isobel Podlesney, 45, Patricia Stephen, 32, and Mrs Cameron, 58, paid tribute to the public for helping to raise

the £500,000 needed to pay for the recovery operation.

The women set up the Sapphire Trust and launched a public appeal for funds after Glenda Jackson, the Government's shipping minister, refused to help. Most of the money for the recovery was raised within three days.

Mrs Podlesney, whose husband Victor, died, said: "Glenda Jackson and Tony Blair can hang their heads in shame. I do hope they review the situation, so that if there is another tragedy no other family has to go through the agony that we have been through."

Mrs Stephen, speaking on the day her husband Robert would have celebrated his 26th birthday, said: "Never

underestimate the power of four women because what we have done we have done on our own and with Alex's [Salmond] help and proved Glenda Jackson wrong. All we ever wanted was the boys home."

The lifting operation, which had been repeatedly delayed for two months due to bad weather, was the first of its kind. The Sapphire sank within sight of its home port of Peterhead on October 1.

It was lying on its side on the seabed in 273 feet of water just 12 miles off-shore. On Sunday, after weeks of worry and anguish, hundreds of locals watched as the fishing boat finally returned home carried on the lifting wires of

the Dutch floating crane barge Tak Lift 7. It then took a specialist team of police and salvage experts three hours to search the vessel and find the four men. Bruce Cameron, 32, Victor Podlesney, 45, Adam Stephen, 29, and Robert Stephen, 25. Their bodies were in the wheelhouse and accommodation area. Only the skipper, Victor Robertson, 27, had managed to survive after escaping through the wheelhouse window. He was picked up after spending 90 minutes in a life raft. He has since left the area.

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish Nationalists, said it was an "extraordinary story of guts, resolution and determination by four families."

He said the women had been treated "shabbily" by the Government and he hoped the situation would now be reviewed so that other people did not find a "vacuum of responsibility" were there should be help."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl died after fax error at hospital

A girl aged 5 died because her medical records were sent to a fax machine in a locked room to which no one had access over a weekend. Doctors, unaware of her medical history, gave her a massive overdose of drugs, South-west Coroner said.

Noorjahan Khan, 5, from Crawley, Sussex, who suffered from giant cell leucitis, fell ill on a visit to Middlesbrough, and was given the new drug Tacrolimus at South Cleveland Hospital.

She died in her father's arms on August 11, after being transferred to King's College Hospital in south London.

Airport alert

More than 1,000 passengers were evacuated from Heathrow's Terminal One after a second fire alert within three days. It turned out to be a false alarm and passengers were allowed back within 20 minutes. Flights were not delayed. There was disruption on Friday after fire broke out in a restaurant.

Inquiry widens

Police investigating allegations of widespread child abuse at six residential care homes in South Wales have extended their inquiry to include a further 27 homes. The move follows an appeal for information from former residents of homes in the region. As a result officers have received a further 250 claims of abuse.

Bonus barred

A Christmas bonus scheme for prisoners has been dropped after complaints that offenders were receiving the same amount of cash as pensioners. Inmates at Walton jail in Liverpool will be allowed to spend an extra £10 from their own money rather than receive the bonus from prison shop profits.

Silent Duchess

A busy schedule is reported to have obliged the Duchess of York to turn down a cameo role in a Broadway musical. The Duchess had been invited to appear in a production of *Jekyll and Hyde* alongside her friend Linda Eder. The producers had offered to write a part for the duchess and a special song.

Artist in court

The sculptor Anthony Kelly, cousin of the Duke of Norfolk and a favourite artist of the Prince of Wales, is to stand trial next month for allegedly stealing human body parts for use in works of art. Mr Kelly and Niel Kelly are charged with taking anatomical parts from the Royal College of Surgeons.

Saab reverses

A family-run business selling Indian food has won a legal battle against the Swedish car manufacturer Saab over the name of its pickles and spices. Saab has dropped its objection to the Bolton-based House of Raja using the name Memsaab. It had claimed the name was too similar to its own trademark.



The happy pair: William Hague and Ffion Jenkins will revert to tradition before their wedding day

Ulster leaders fail in search for Christmas breakthrough

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

HOPES of a breakthrough before Christmas in the deadlocked Stormont talks were fading last night as two weeks of negotiations between party leaders drew to a close with no agreement on a future agenda.

The leaders' working group was

intended to jumpstart the stalled talks. However, barring a last-minute surprise, it will be unable to deliver an agreed direction at today's last plenary session before the holiday. Sources predicted a face-saving paper to keep options open.

"The prognostications are not good," said David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, whose

officials blamed Sinn Féin for a lack of realism and the Irish Government for a reluctance to break with Gerry Adams's party. A Stormont source said: "We were hoping to start the real business in the new year, but now we're coming back to work out what that business should be."

George Mitchell, the American

talks chairman, proposed the working group this month to identify key issues and the best format for resolving them. Mr Trimble said that his party and the nationalist SDLP had agreed on a paper, but other parties had found it unacceptable. Unionists claimed that Sinn Féin had rejected anything that conceded the principle of consent or

Northern Ireland's right to exist. SDLP officials were still hoping for a breakthrough, but suggested that the Unionists were as much to blame for opposing cross-border bodies. The UUP and Sinn Féin were "in denial," said one. A Sinn Féin spokesman denied his party was seeking to exclude any item.

Mr Trimble also insisted he had

no plans to meet Mr Adams "this week, next week, next month" or in "the foreseeable future". In a weekend television interview, the UUP leader had not ruled out a face-to-face meeting with the Sinn Féin president, but officials said that no such meeting was possible until Mr Adams had proved his commitment to peaceful, democratic methods.

You'd expect to find a signature on a masterpiece.
A used Mercedes is no exception.

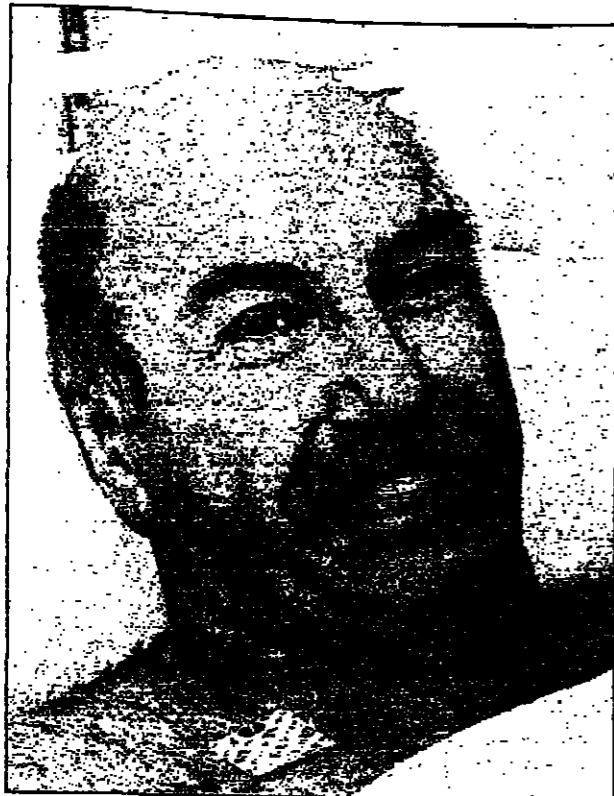
A used Mercedes has a name to live up to and the only place you'll find one that Mercedes-Benz is happy to sign off is at an authorised dealership. Under the Signature scheme, every car is signed off by the Mercedes-trained technicians who check it with a comprehensive multi-point check and by the Dealer Principal. What's more it also comes with certificates from independent bodies who investigate its mileage and history. So when you buy a used car from a Mercedes-Benz dealership, you can rest assured that whatever its age, its reputation is as good as new. For further information please call 0800 665 400.

Signature
USED CARS



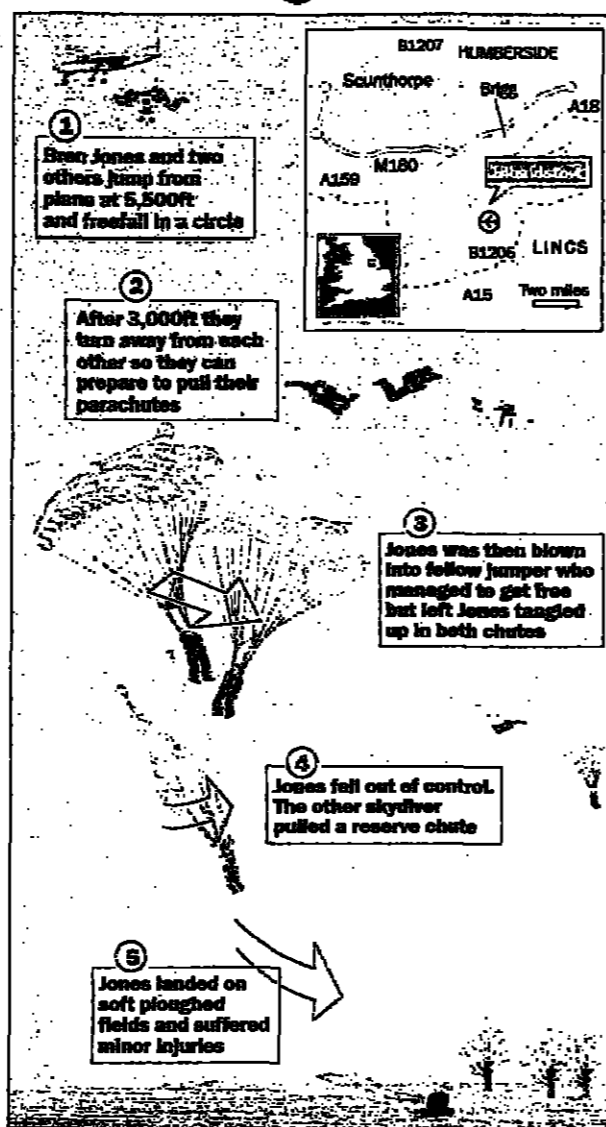
Mercedes-Benz

That hurt, says man who fell 2,000ft



Bren Jones yesterday: cannot wait to jump again
Mud, glorious mud, saves a grandfather from serious injury after parachute fails.

Paul Wilkinson reports



Dropping into trouble: how the parachute jump went wrong. Mr Jones, pictured in action, was described by his friends as "a devil-may-care sort of bloke"



THERE was only one certainty in the mind of a 56-year-old skydiver as he plunged 2,000ft with a failed parachute. Bren Jones thought: "This is going to hurt."

Then he may have passed out. Moments later, he found himself lying in the soft mud of a rain-soaked field. As anxious friends approached, he sat up and started joking with them.

The parachuting fanatic, who has repeatedly claimed that his hobby is no more dangerous than crossing a road, had survived with no broken bones and no serious injuries. He was right about one thing: it certainly hurt.

Yesterday the grandfather was recovering in Lincoln County Hospital with a lot of bruising and a chipped bone in his back. Doctors are also monitoring pain in his legs. Experts think that the cushioning effect of the muddy ground

saved him after his canopy became entangled with another parachutist, sending him spiralling down out of control. He said that he could not wait to jump again.

Mr Jones, who runs a suspended-ceiling business in Leeds, said: "I didn't have time to think about whether I would live or die. I was more concerned with just trying to control the parachute. The ground just approached painfully fast. I just knew it was going to hurt, and God it does."

"I can't remember hitting the ground. I'm just thankful I landed on soft, ploughed fields. I have extreme bruising which is giving me a lot of pain. This has not put me off parachuting and I will certainly be doing it again. It is a hobby which I enjoy and take seriously."

Friends describe Mr Jones as

just the sort of character to jump out of a plane and land safely without a parachute. Last Christmas, the veteran of 3,500 jumps joined an international group to sky-dive at the North Pole, and he celebrated his 50th birthday by parachuting into his back garden. He also does charity jumps and once took up a thalidomide sufferer so that she could experience the thrill of parachuting.

The divorced father of three grown-up children had jumped at 5,500ft on Sunday with members of the "Target Skysports" Club, linking hands with two of them. They fell more than 3,000ft, reaching a speed of about 120mph, before pulling their ripcords over Hibaldstow airfield, near Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. Mr Jones said: "The canopy opened fully, but there was a gust of wind and I got blown into another jumper

and our chutes became entangled. We had no control. He shouted that he was going to disengage his parachute and then he used his reserve chute to land."

"But I could not free his chute from mine and I could not disengage them and use my reserve. I was completely tangled up. The canopy kept opening and closing and just flapping around. It was no use at all. I have no idea how fast I was dropping, but it is not something I would like to experience again."

Trevor Doleman, the club's chief instructor, watched from the ground. He said: "It was unlucky, and rare, but there was nothing either jumper could do to stop it. The other jumper managed to jettison his chute and went back into free-fall before deploying his reserve. But Bren was left with two canopies still attached. His kept

inflating and deflating and he was totally out of control. Bren had the other chute tangled up with his, so he could not steer. It wasn't fully open, so he was falling faster than normal. His parachute was open but not fully, it was twisting around but still gave him some degree of support. He hit feet first, then his backside hit the ground."

"We found him semi-conscious. He recognised me and was joking to us. He saw the air ambulance arrive and asked 'I'm not going to have to parachute into the hospital am I?' Bren was lucky to escape with no more serious injury."

The British Parachute Association is investigating the incident. John Hitchin, the association's safety officer, said: "Mr Jones kept his nerve in a very trying situation. He may have blacked out before he hit the ground, but he seems to have deployed his reserve chute at

about 300ft." Mr Jones's girlfriend, Carol Day, said: "It is remarkable he didn't break any bones. All he needs now is a couple of days' rest. I got a call from hospital saying there had been a 'bit of an incident'. Although he was on painkillers, he was still his usual self, causing mayhem."

Mr Jones has been parachuting for 30 years, and has been a British Parachute Association instructor for 26 years. Heather Clark, 36, a programme production co-ordinator at Yorkshire Tyne Tees TV, who has no arms and legs because of thalidomide, recalled how she had made a jump with him: "He's a very gentle man and was so nice. He even had a special harness made for me. It was once in a lifetime for me and Bren helped to make it."

"It was always something I had fancied doing, but I thought I

wouldn't be able to because of my disability. Bren explained everything to me and put me at ease."

Curtis Hall, 56, a friend, added: "He is a devil-may-care sort of bloke. His feelings on life are to live today because tomorrow you might be dead. He says you can get killed crossing the road as easily as you can parachute jumping. When he got into difficulty he would have kept cool, calm and collected. If there was anyone who could have got away with it, I would have put money on Bren being the man."

Resh Rall, who runs the newsagents near his home in Horsforth, Leeds, said: "He is a great man, a character and a half. He doesn't talk about his charity work. He would help anyone at any time. I bet that when he gets back here, he will say nothing about it."

Airline chief fights off 'Quality Street' raiders

By DANIEL MCGROARY AND TIM JONES

A MULTIMILLIONAIRE airline owner fought off two masked raiders who ambushed him inside his London home.

Police believe that Tony Ryan, 61, the owner of Ryanair, is the latest victim of "Quality Street" gangs who scour society columns and Who's Who to select targets.

He was punched and kicked to the floor by the men, who demanded that Mr Ryan revealed the combination number to his safe. The stockily built, bespectacled entrepreneur refused to be cowed and began to fight the two men.

He had been in the ground-floor flat for half an hour without knowing that the two thieves, said to be in their 20s, black and muscular, were also there. They grabbed him as he tried to leave. Minutes earlier a woman companion had left the flat.

A spokesman for Mr Ryan said last night: "It is obviously

very distressing to know they were inside the apartment. He thinks they could not open the safe so their last resort was to grab him. He was not going to give them the satisfaction of the combination number."

The men, who fled in an expensive car, did manage to grab £400 cash and jewellery, including a pearl necklace and diamond ring, brooch and earrings.

Detective Constable Gareth John, who is leading the investigation, said: "He put up quite a struggle and the men left with their tails somewhat between their legs. They were young and very fit, but Mr Ryan is pretty fit too. I think they must have been surprised at the fight he put up."

Mr Ryan refused hospital treatment despite injuries to his face and ribs, and within hours had flown to Ireland to attend a charity function.

Back in his Dublin office yesterday, Mr Ryan, who is



Ryan refused to be intimidated by raiders

said to have a fortune in excess of £100 million, was reluctant to say more about his ordeal. A spokesman said: "He feels a bit embarrassed, and angry at being assaulted in his own home. He started to fight them off because he felt so indignant. He is not a great fitness fanatic but he is a very

healthy man for his age and is still an active farmer among his many other interests. He certainly would not care to be portrayed as some intrepid 'have-a-go hero', more a man trying to defend his home."

Mr Ryan, the oldest of four sons of a Tipperary train driver, founded GPA — the world's largest aircraft leasing company — in 1975 with a £50,000 stake. GPA ran into trouble after an attempt to float the group and Mr Ryan severed his links in 1994 to concentrate on his cut-price airline, Ryanair, which, after amassing sizeable debts, has become the market leader on the Irish Sea routes.

Police last night said they were investigating whether the description of Mr Ryan's assailants matched those responsible for other "Quality Street" attacks. Their previous victims have included Michael Green, the Carlton TV chief, Lord Mishcon, the lawyer, and Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One magnate.

Postal bride returns to sender

By PETER FOSTER

THE marriage of a former gas board chairman and a Thai woman 53 years his junior appeared to be at an end yesterday just six days after the couple began their new life together in Britain.

Brian Clegg, 76, was married to Banjit Sawangdee, 23, in Bangkok in October after being introduced by a "mail order" dating agency. The former chairman of Northern Gas said he hoped the liaison would provide a climactic closing chapter to his life after two failed marriages.

However, last night Mr Clegg was sitting alone in his penthouse flat in Poole, Dorset, after his wife, known to him by the nickname Joom, decided to leave. He blamed the break-up on his wife's demands for money, allegedly including £5,000 to buy her a home in Thailand and an allowance for several poor-



Banjit Sawangdee, 23, and her husband Brian Clegg, 76: "I feel thoroughly stitched up," he said



erty-stricken relatives. But Charles Black, whose company, Siam Introductions, arranged the marriage, said a newspaper deal arranged by Mr Clegg had strained the marriage to breaking point.

Mr Black said: "The poor girl was a prisoner in the

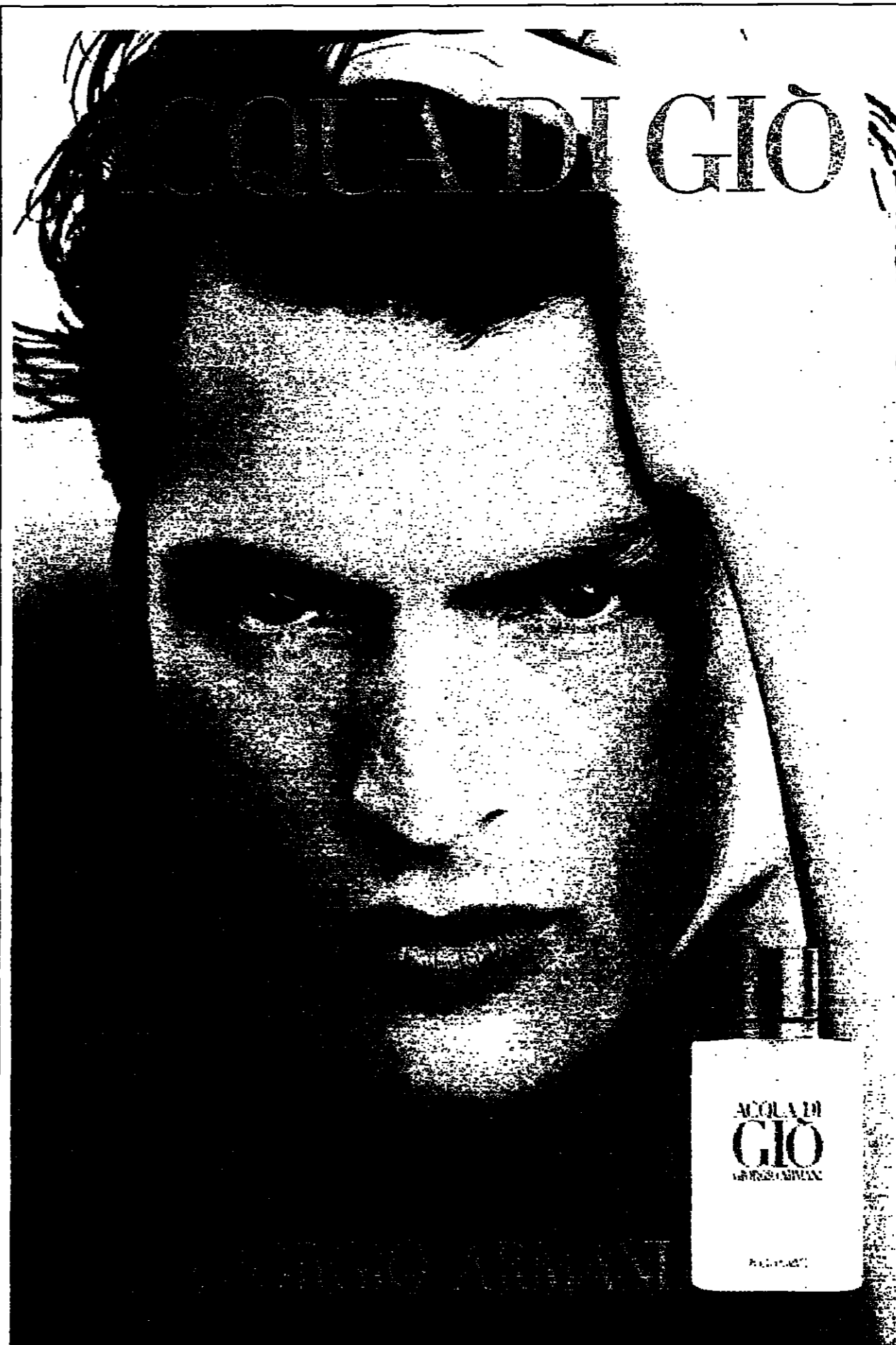
house, so to speak, and couldn't go out because other newspapers were waiting outside. She was a simple girl. She really wanted to come over and be a housewife, but that wasn't to be."

Ms Sawangdee stands to lose financially if she di-

vores Mr Clegg and returns to her family in Thailand. According to Mr Black she had been left a house worth £100,000 in Mr Clegg's will and a pension worth £27,000 a year.

A forlorn Mr Clegg said: "I feel thoroughly stitched up. I should have realised what was going on because she started making some outrageous financial demands before she even came over here. But I had a word with the agency and she was told to get back in her box a bit. ... Right from the start she wanted me to spend, spend, spend."

"I can either sit around thinking that I am an old man and my life is all behind me, or I can think of myself as a bachelor and get stuck in there. I've already had a woman from Ghana ring me up and offer her services as a replacement, so I have asked her to come and have a drink and see how we get on."



'Unsafe' meat can be imported but not sold

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

THE unilateral ban on the sale of imported beef and sheep meat which has not been subjected to the same safeguards as British meat will take effect from January.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said foreign meat could be sold in Britain only if it had come from abattoirs that had removed the brain, eyes, tonsils and spinal cord from the carcasses of cattle, sheep and goats.

These organs are known as "specified risk materials" because they have been identified as being capable of harbouring BSE infection. The requirement to remove them would apply only to animals over the age of 12 months, although the spleen of sheep and goats of any age would also have to be taken out.

Dr Cunningham announced the ban after the European Union's standing veterinary committee voted yesterday to postpone the introduction of abattoir controls throughout Europe. These had been due to come into force at the start of next year.

Most EU states see no reason why they should be subject to the same restrictions as Britain. Last year Britain imported 150,000 tonnes of beef worth £363 million from all sources, of which 93,100 tonnes came from the European Union, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission.

It was not clear last night what impact Dr Cunningham's action would have. The biggest EU exporter of beef to Britain last year was Ireland, which sent 54,600 tonnes, but the Dublin Department of Agriculture said last night that Ireland already complied with British requirements.

The European Commission said that two other leading



Farmers at a rally at Westpoint exhibition centre near Exeter. They want £980 million compensation for the damaging effects of a strong pound

exporters to Britain, Holland (17,300 tonnes) and France (11,700 tonnes), were also thought to comply. But Germany (5,330 tonnes) does not have such safeguards and says it sees no reason why it should be subject to the same restraints as Britain.

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night that all non-EU

suppliers, with the exception only of New Zealand and Australia, would have to comply with the new regulations if their meat was to be marketable in Britain. This is apparently because only Australia and New Zealand are considered to pose no threat from either BSE or scrapie, the related sheep disease. In 1996

Britain imported 9,200 tonnes of beef from Australia, 8,200 tonnes from Uruguay, 7,600 tonnes from Argentina, 6,900 tonnes from Botswana, 6,400 tonnes from Namibia, 5,200 tonnes from Zimbabwe, 4,000 tonnes from Brazil, 3,900 tonnes from New Zealand and 2,800 tonnes from the United States. Nearly all Britain's

imports of sheep meat come from Australia and New Zealand, which are exempt.

Dr Cunningham admitted yesterday that he could not stop foreign meat being imported, but officials said he had the power to ban its sale if it did not meet British requirements. "I cannot ban imports of beef — though I think

farmers would like me to — but that would be a matter that would have me straight into the European Court," he said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One* programme. "But I can insist that it can only come in if it has had the specified risk materials removed and been treated the same as British beef."

Lamb sheepish as bone test goes all to pot

■ In the best tradition of food writers, Robin Young cried 'Foul!' when he accepted the Meat and Livestock Commission's challenge to taste the difference — and lost

I FACED the beef bone challenge yesterday, and won. Unfortunately, it was for all the wrong reasons.

The Meat and Livestock Commission's grandly titled Sensory Evaluation Department had arranged a controlled test to determine whether I could tell beef cooked off the bone from that cooked with the bone in.

Accepted wisdom among chefs, cooks and cookery writers is that the bone, which government regulations ban from today, makes beef juicier and more flavoursome. That view has had the support of, among many others, Delia Smith, Gary Rhodes, the Two Fat Ladies and our own *Times* Cook, Frances Bissell.

The meat industry's Sensory Evaluation Department was out to dispel that impression yesterday. "We want to reassure customers that they are losing nothing by way of flavour or cooking quality," said the British meat consumer marketing manager, whose name just happens to be Chris Lamb.

"Our tests have shown that consumers cannot tell the difference between beef cooked on the bone and boneless joints."

So now, the big question was: could I? For the trial, at the Good Housekeeping Institute in West London, they had taken fore ribs of beef, cut joints in half and boned one half while leaving the bone in the other.

The Good Housekeeping Institute's cook had then cooked the bone-in and boneless halves in the same oven in exactly the same way, before carving and serving on three plates, two from one half of the joint and one from

the other. I had to pick the odd one out.

I told Mr Lamb I expected to be able to distinguish the beef cooked on the bone because it would be juicier and probably taste better.

When the three samples arrived, one was immediately distinguishable as the odd one out at very first glance. Without even bothering to taste, I said that the two samples to the right were obviously from the same joint, and that on the left different.

Correct. That on the left was obviously drier. Fine — but that happened to be the beef cooked on the bone. Oh dear.

The explanation, I think, is that the Good Housekeeping Institute had cooked the joints for the same amount of time per pound. Overall cooking times were, therefore, shorter for boned joints. Result? The bone-in beef was overcooked, and therefore did not taste as good as it should, while the boneless beef was just about right.

Do I still think consumers are losing something by losing their bone? Yes I do. Beef cooked properly on the bone definitely does taste better.

Sadly, all the test proved was that neither the Meat and Livestock Commission nor the Good Housekeeping Institute knows how to cook beef on the bone, the traditional British joint that from today is a thing of the past.

My conclusion is supported by Frances Bissell. "Of course, the beef on the bone should not be cooked longer," she said. "The bone is not part of the meat, but is a good conductor of heat. It helps the beef cook more quickly." Sorry, Mr Lamb, I hope you are feeling a little sheepish.

WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S OUT: A GUIDE TO THE NEW FOOD SAFETY LAW ON BEEF THAT TOOK EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT

The ban on beef on the bone, which took effect at midnight, will be enforced under Section 16 of the Food Safety Act 1990. These are its main provisions:

■ Any butcher, shop, hotel, restaurant or caterer that sells cattle bones, or bone marrow, or cuts of beef containing bone direct to the "ultimate consumer" is committing a criminal offence.

■ Offenders run the risk of a fine of

up to £5,000 and/or up to six months' imprisonment if convicted in a magistrate's court, or up to two years in prison and/or an unlimited fine in a Crown Court.

■ The ban applies to cattle bone and beef on the bone from any source at home or abroad. Local authority environmental health and trading standards officers will be required to enforce it.

■ Beef on the bone is still legal from

cattle under six months old, but few animals are ready for slaughter before that age.

■ The main outlawed cuts are ribs of beef (baron of beef, fore rib, wing rib, flat rib, flank and brisket), T-bone steak and oxtail. Up to now these have accounted for 30,000 tonnes, or 5 per cent, of beef sales a year, a trade worth £150 million.

■ Butchers and restaurants are still allowed to have beef carcasses

on their premises provided they take the meat off the bone before sale to their customers. This means, for example, that the fillets and sirloins contained within a T-bone steak can still be sold once cut from the bone.

■ Restaurants are prohibited from using any cattle bones or bone marrow in the preparation of food for their customers.

■ Manufacturers of soups, broths, bouillons, stocks cubes and gravy

granules cannot use bone of British origin as a raw material but may use imported bones, even from EU countries that have had cases of BSE. The level of BSE in these countries is not considered high enough to warrant a ban.

■ Butchers are banned from selling cattle bones direct to customers to feed to their dogs, but may sell the bones to pet feed manufacturers to be included in dog and cat food.

Dreaming of a white New Year?



If you fancy sloping off this winter, Abbey National can help you get there now with an Abbeyloan. Flexible to suit your needs, ranging from

term	4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	Typical APR
48 monthly repayments					
£					
1,000	£28.86	£35.66	£49.45	£91.21	18.4%
3,000	£83.26	£103.77	£145.24	£270.56	15.9%
5,000	£136.56	£170.82	£239.99	£448.96	14.9%
10,000	£264.74	£333.50	£472.06	£889.82	13.0%
15,000	£397.10	£500.25	£708.09	£1334.73	13.0%

£500 to £15,000 and repayable over 1-8 years.

You can apply for an Abbeyloan over the phone and you could have a decision in minutes.

Call Abbey National quoting reference 7250.

Monday to Friday 8am-9pm and Saturday 8am-4pm

and you could be on the piste in no time.

0345 57 58 59

ABBEY NATIONAL

Because life's complicated enough.

loans

www.abbeynational.co.uk

To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor telephone calls. Loans are available to multiples of £50 only. Typical example: an Abbeyloan of £5,000 with 36 monthly repayments of £170.82, the total amount repayable is £16,149.32 at 14.9% APR excluding payment protection. The APR for loans up to £1,000 is 20.4%. All APRs are typical rates effective from 1.7.97 and may be withdrawn at any time. Loans and pricing are subject to status and are not available to persons under 18 years of age. Please do not enter into a credit agreement unless you can afford the repayments. Payments must be made by Direct Debit. Written quotations available on request. Abbey National reserves the right to refuse an application for a loan for certain purposes. Customers who do not satisfy our standard credit scoring criteria may be offered a loan at an APR of up to 5% higher than the rates shown provided the term of the loan requested does not exceed 5 years. Abbey National and the Umbrella logo are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London W1T 6SL.

With

BT

local weekend calls
are only

1p

per minute

From midnight Friday to midnight Sunday, local calls are only 1p per minute with BT (the 5p minimum charge applies). And it's even less with BT's Friends & Family. For more information call Freephone 0800 003 800.

BT It's good to talk

DIRECT DIALLED CALLS ONLY. EXCLUDES BT PUBLIC PHONES AND BT CHARGECARD CALLS. FRIENDS & FAMILY IS NOT AVAILABLE WITH THE LIGHT USER SCHEME.

Clark says spoof diary harms his good name

By Emma Wilkins

THE reputation of Alan Clark, the Conservative MP, diarist, and self-confessed philanderer, was damaged by a series of newspaper articles that appeared under his name but were written by a journalist, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Mr Clark, who is seeking damages and an injunction preventing the *Evening Standard* from further publication of "Alan Clark's Secret Political Diary" fears that readers do not realise the true author is Peter Bradshaw, a staff writer on the newspaper.

Although Mr Bradshaw's name appears in bold type at the top of the weekly articles, Mr Clark's photograph is prominently displayed. The accounts are written in the first person and refer to places that Mr Clark mentions in his best-selling 1993 diaries, including his homes in the Albany, Piccadilly, and Saltwood Castle in Kent.

"What greater damage could there be to an author than to present another man's words as his?" said Geoffrey Hobbs, QC, for Mr Clark.

Mr Clark was not suing for defamation or seeking to prevent the newspaper publishing clear "spoofs", Mr Hobbs



Hastings refused to drop the spoof diary

said. "His sole ambition is to prevent the *Evening Standard* from publishing parodies without making it clear that he is not the author," he said.

The court was told that the first spoof article was published soon after Mr Clark won the Conservative nomination for the seat of Kensington and Chelsea in January.

Shortly afterwards Max Hastings, editor of the *Evening Standard*, had offered Mr Clark £60,000 to write a

weekly diary for the newspaper, commenting on current affairs. Mr Clark had refused the offer, which was substantially less than he was receiving for his column in the *New York Times*.

A few weeks after Mr Clark's rejection a second parody appeared under the heading "Alan Clark's Secret Election Diary". Mr Justice Lightman was told. The title of the spoof articles was changed after the general election. During conversations in April and May, including one chance meeting at the Chelsea Flower Show, Mr Clark asked Mr Hastings to make the true authorship clear. But Mr Hastings had refused, claiming that the articles were "the most popular thing in the paper".

Mr Bradshaw's efforts were even praised by Clive James, the television presenter and satirist, who wrote in a note to Mr Bradshaw that he was "lost in admiration".

The court was told that *Evening Standard* journalists gave information about Mr Clark's movements to Mr Bradshaw as background for the diary. "Generally the tone is whimsical," Mr Hobbs said. "Some parts are quite ludicrous in order to create a humorous effect. Even so,

there's no reason why it couldn't have been written by Alan Clark."

But Peter Prescott, QC, for the *Evening Standard*, asked numerous witnesses whether they believed that stories in the spoof diary could possibly have been written by the real Mr Clark. In one extract, the diary told of the exuberant reaction of women supporters on hearing that Mr Clark was their new MP. "Have you ever laboured under the impres-

sion that the ladies at his constituency adoption meeting cheered and flung their undergarments at him?" Mr Prescott asked Graham Halkerston, a witness for Mr Clark. Mr Halkerston, a barrister, replied: "I wouldn't be surprised at the blue-rinse brigade at Kensington and Chelsea Conservative Party. They adore him. He's their ideal candidate."

In a further spoof Mr Clark apparently confided to his

readers that he had enjoyed a drunken lunch at Wiltons (a fashionable restaurant in his constituency), forgotten to go to a lecture at the Royal United Services Institute where he was to be a guest speaker, and given a "lying" excuse.

Was it really credible, Mr Prescott asked, that Mr Clark should admit to these antics in the *Evening Standard* in the middle of a general election campaign? Mr Halkerston said he could quite imagine

Mr Clark, or anyone else, having a drunken lunch but acknowledged that the other matters were "rather odd".

Peter Luff, the Tory MP for Mid Worcestershire, said that he had read two diaries before realising they were spoofs. In one diary the writer had said that Anne Widdecombe, then Prisons Minister, had had her neck bolts airbrushed out of her election photographs. The case continues.

Briton in court over mountain bus crash

FROM JEAN-PIERRE BENOIT IN ALBERTVILLE

A FRENCH prosecutor yesterday demanded a two-month suspended sentence and 11,000 franc (£1,100) fine for the British driver of a tour bus which crashed in the Alps, killing three Bolton teenagers last July.

The driver, James Shaw, appeared in court at Albertville, in the Savoie, yesterday to face manslaughter charges in connection with the crash, in which the three died and 25 others were injured, when the hired French bus plunged 60 ft from a mountain road into a ravine at Moutiers.

He also faces charges of involuntary manslaughter and failure to control the vehicle. A verdict will be delivered on January 5.

Mr Shaw, of Droylsden, Manchester, told the court through an interpreter: "As far as I am concerned I was driving safely. It was a winding road, narrow in places. The surface was in bad condition."

Jean-Pierre Beroud, the presiding judge, said the road had recently been resurfaced. "It seems to me there was a bump or a hole," replied Mr Shaw. Asked if the coach had toppled over towards the right, he said: "Possibly, I tried to put it back on the road."

Nicola Moore, 16, Keith Riddings, 14, and Robert Boardman, 15, died in the crash.

Thief who won Iron Cross dies

By Philip Delves Broughton

A SAFECRACKER turned double agent who was awarded the Iron Cross by Hitler while spying for the British has died aged 83.

Eddie Chapman was in prison in Jersey in 1940 when the Channel Islands were invaded by the Germans. The Germans took up Chapman's offer to spy for them, but when he was parachuted into Britain he got word to Scotland Yard about what had happened, and was duly asked by MI5 to act as a double agent under the codename Zig Zag.

When he was parachuted into Britain for the second time, he landed on concrete, knocking out all his teeth and damaging his back. For his efforts on behalf of Germany, he was awarded the Iron Cross in 1944.

Towards the end of the war, Chapman's counter-intelligence work helped to

misdirect many V1 and V2 bombs away from central London. The British pardoned him of all the crimes he committed before the war.

His wartime exploits, which included the attempted sabotage of British ships in Lisbon with explosives disguised as lumps of coal, were used as the basis for the 1967 film *Triple Cross* in which Chapman was played by Christopher Plummer, alongside Yul Brynner.

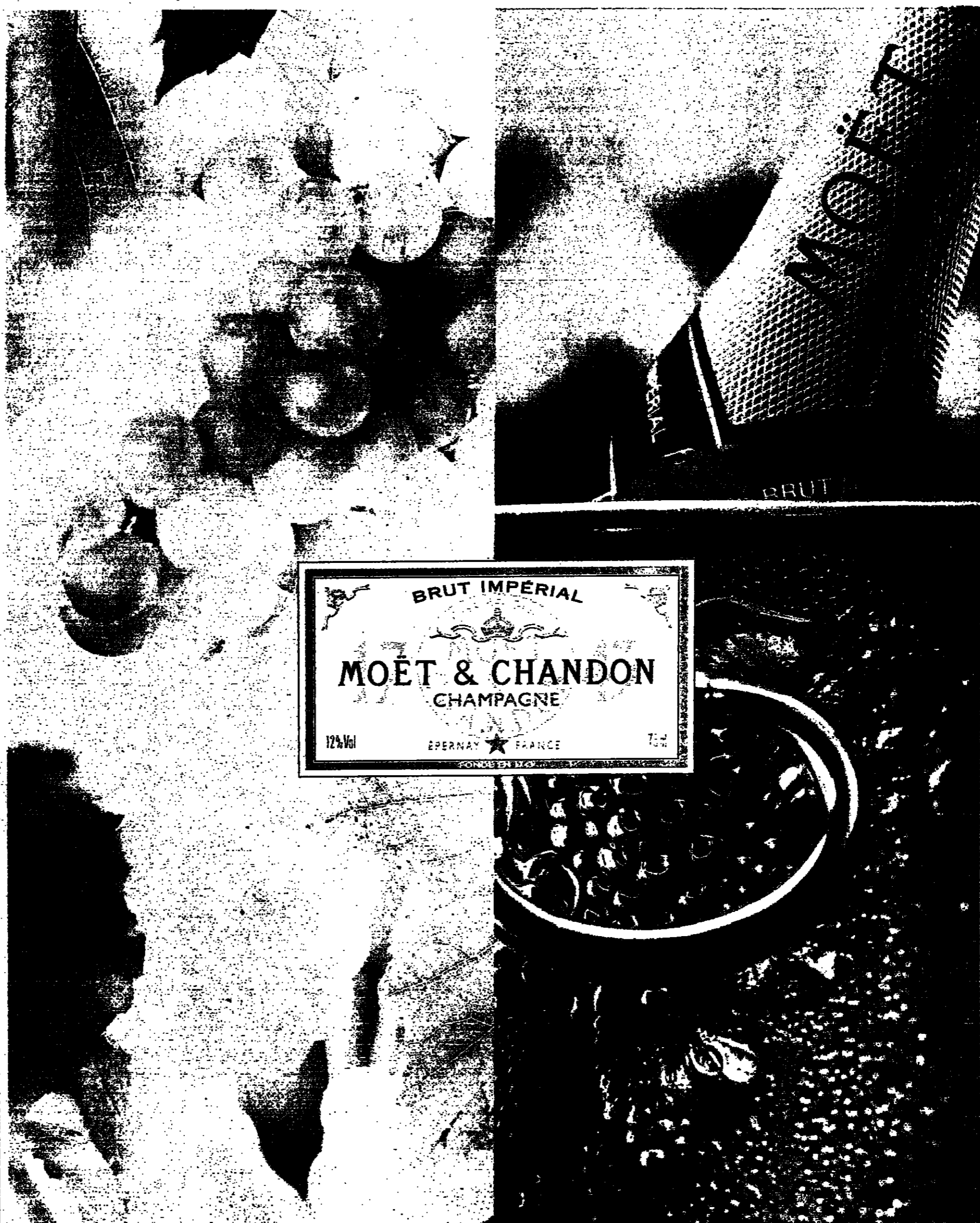
After the war, Chapman lived in some style in Spain and Amersham, Buckinghamshire. He was also a regular at the Star Tavern in Belgrave, whose patrons came from both sides of the tracks.

Chapman, who was married with a daughter and four grandchildren, will be buried in a private ceremony. The funeral will be held this Thursday in Amersham.

Mulberry

Christmas gifts to travel afar.

41/42 New Bond Street, London
11/12 Goss Court, London
185 Brompton Road, London
62 King Street, Manchester
23/25 Swinegate, York
Terminal 4, Heathrow
Open on Sundays from
30th Nov to 22nd Dec
For enquiries telephone
0171 491 3900



— Moët & Chandon. Turning nature into art —

Jail for killers of couple who escaped Stalin's death camps

By PAUL WHITTAKER

AN ELDERLY Polish couple who fled to Britain as refugees after surviving the horrors of Stalin's death camps were murdered almost 50 years later by their fellow countrymen.

Joseph Ploch, 86, and his wife Kornela, 81, were tortured and left to die after three intruders broke into their home in Fulham, southwest London, last June.

Mrs Ploch, who had her wedding and engagement rings ripped from her fingers during the attack, was kicked in the face while lying on the floor downstairs and her husband suffocated to death upstairs as the gang tried to force them to reveal the whereabouts of a secret £40,000 cash hoard. The couple, who had been married for 60 years, were bound hand and foot with masking tape. Their bodies lay undiscovered for almost a week.

Their killers, Robert and Mariusz Maczka — two Polish brothers who entered Britain on student visas — have been jailed for life for the brutal murders. Yesterday at the Old Bailey a third member of the gang, Rafal Gutarewicz, 24, was sentenced to 11 years in jail for robbery.

The three men, who came to England from Poland in the summer of 1995, breached their conditions of entry by overstaying and working in the hotel and catering trade. The court heard that on the way to England the brothers had selected elderly victims in Holland to fund their stay in the West.

The day of the killings wasn't the first time the couple



Joseph and Kornela Ploch were tortured and left to die at their £400,000 London home by the three-man gang

had met the gang. On an earlier visit the men had cased the Plochs' £400,000 home, posing as journalists researching a story on the couple's lives.

The Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney QC, yesterday lifted reporting restrictions concerning the life sentences imposed on the

brothers in June this year. The case could not be reported until after Gutarewicz's retrial on the robbery charge.

Robert Maczka, 20, pleaded guilty to both murders and robbery. His 22-year-old epileptic brother, who admitted only robbery, was found guilty of the murder of Mr Ploch and the manslaughter of his wife.

Gutarewicz, who was seen wearing Mr Ploch's clothing after the attack, was cleared of murdering the pair in the June trial but faced a retrial this month for robbery and the manslaughter of Mrs Ploch. He was cleared of the manslaughter charge on the judge's directions but found guilty of robbery.

In June the Common Sergeant of London, Judge Neil Denison, QC, told the brothers: "This was a cold-blooded murder of an old and infirm couple. You showed them no mercy, having assaulted them and in the case of Mrs Ploch with great ferocity. You left them tied by the hands and feet to die without even making a call for an ambulance."

A senior policeman who investigated the murders said the case highlighted the problem of criminal elements slipping into Britain after the break-up of the Soviet Bloc.

Detective Inspector Anthony Hulbert, who described the crime as a brutal and cowardly attack, said: "Increasingly

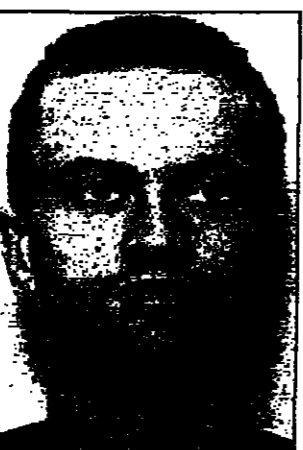
people from the former Warsaw Pact countries are coming here on visitors' passports and student visas. One minute they were under communist rule and then all of a sudden they find themselves in the West and everything they have seen on TV is open to them. It is a temptation. They want to get it and grab it."

The officer said it was very easy to get a job in the catering and hotel trade in Britain with no questions asked. He said this was where they met and formed their plan.

The three were living with a large group of their fellow countrymen in a flat at Lannoy Point, in Fulham, just two miles from the Plochs' large house.

During the raid, the gang found £10,000 in cash but missed a further £30,000 hidden in the cellar. They also stole clothing before calling a minicab to take them away.

Mr Ploch was a former history professor and his wife an actress. He worked in Britain as a draughtsman.



Gang members: brothers Mariusz, left, and Robert Maczka were jailed for life. Rafal Gutarewicz, right, was sentenced to 11 years at the Old Bailey yesterday

Yard told to act on cost of sick leave

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD has been urged to review its sick-pay and pensions systems after it emerged that sickness and injury cost the Metropolitan Police £72 million last year.

A National Audit Office study showed that 400,000 working days were lost last year because of sick leave, and on any one day about 1,500 officers out of the Metropolitan force of 27,000 were absent. The report urges the Yard to examine how its sick-pay system works, and questions its housekeeping. Long-term sickness and medical retirements have been rising throughout the 1990s although injuries on duty have fallen. Every day's reduction in the average sickness rate of 14.4 days a year — compared with a national average of eight days — would save the force another £6.5 million.

The current system, says the report, might encourage officers to stay off work for long periods in the hope of eventually getting medical retirement with an enhanced pension. It could also be used by those trying to avoid disciplinary hearings, a problem that the Yard has acknowledged to MPs in hearings on police complaints and discipline.

A quarter of all officers on sick leave were absent for longer than six months, and the figure is now higher than at any time in the past three years. Stress and spinal and neck injuries account for 38 per cent of illnesses.

At the end of the financial year, 302 officers had been off work longer than six months and were still receiving full pay. Since 1995 chief constables have been able to reduce sick pay if an officer is away longer than six months; 1,000 officers have taken long-term sick leave since 1995, and 90 per cent have continued to get full pay after six months. The rules for civilian staff are tougher: 90 per cent of the staff on sick leave for long periods have had their pay cut.

Since 1991-92 the number of officers leaving on sickness grounds has doubled. The NAO says: "Early retirement on medical grounds is financially advantageous to officers and correspondingly costly to forces. The arrangements provide incentives to officers to take long-term sick leave."

Flying to Japan?

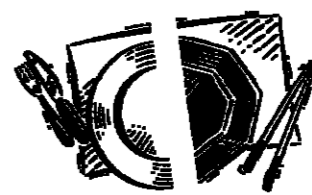
With ANA First or Club Class you can relax all the way.



Chauffeur limousine services to and from Heathrow.



Exclusive lounges providing privacy and comfort.



A choice of Western or traditional Japanese cuisine.



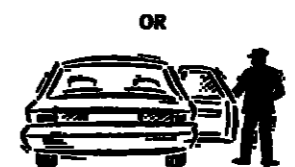
Unique fully reclining First Class seats with an 83° pitch and in Club an equally impressive 50° seat pitch and "Super Relax" recline. Both with built-in entertainment centres.

Plus

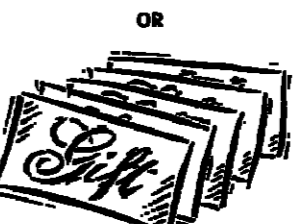
The choice of one of the following benefits.*



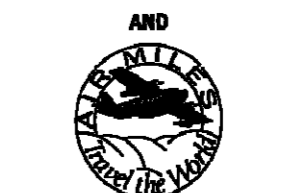
One night's complimentary stay and reduced rates for subsequent nights in ANA hotels.



A complimentary limousine from both Kansai Airport to Central Osaka or Narita to Central Tokyo.



Free Eurostar or Department Store gift vouchers including Harrods.



ANA

An Nippon Airways

JAPAN'S BEST TO THE WORLD

To book or for further information contact your local travel agent or call 0345 262 262.

*Conditions apply. Collect AIR MILES awards through British Airways Executive Club, AIR MILES and the Flying Boat logo are trademarks of AIR MILES International Holdings N.V. AIR MILES Awards are held and issued for use subject to AIR MILES Customer Terms and Conditions.

Scientists trap modest spider in web of love

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

NUMBERS of Britain's most colourful spider have quadrupled to 120 since scientists set up a "dating agency" for the last 30 survivors.

For 60 years the jewel-like ladybird spider was believed to be extinct in this country until a small colony was found in Dorset in the 1980s.

Joy was short-lived, however, when it was realised that the colony, which was confined to a site the size of a tennis court, was rapidly becoming even smaller.

Part of the problem was the arachnid's less than amorous mating habits. The male of the species (*Eresus cinaberrinus*) gets the urge to reproduce only once a year, and even then does not journey far in search of romance. He will steal along several yards of silk-lined tunnel and, if the search ends unrequited, as it often does, he dies. Even if successful, mating has tragic consequences. For once the female's eggs have hatched, her final maternal sacrifice is to be eaten by her brood.

The future looked black for the ladybird spider until scientists began tracking down the males and immediately pairing them off with members of the opposite sex.

English Nature's spider expert, Dr Roger Key, said

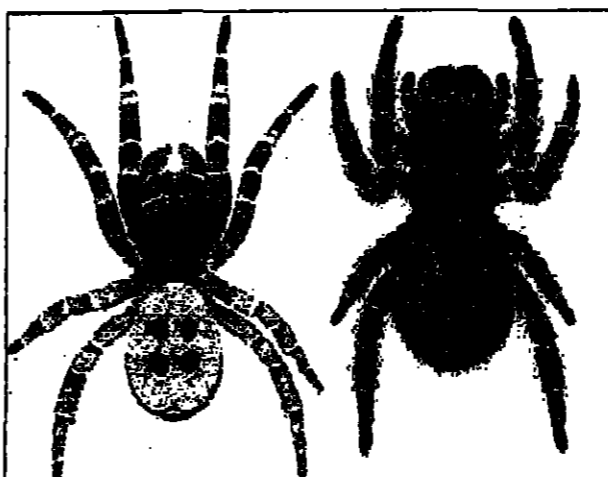
yesterday: "It is very like a dating agency. With so few individuals, we needed to make sure even the females on the edge of the colony succeeded in mating."

"It isn't a matter of them being shy or unwilling. There are just so few of them the female may sit in her burrow waiting for a boyfriend and have no luck. We maximise her chances of finding love."

The ladybird spider was once common in the West Country and the Isle of Wight. But huge areas of the dry heathland it favours have been ploughed up or ruined by invading rhododendron bushes. By 1920 the spider was thought to be extinct in Britain. But in the 1980s the tiny colony was found.

The species takes its name from the male's brilliant blood-red body, covered in black spots, while the elusive female is plain black. Both sexes live alone in silk-lined burrows with delicate tripwires radiating out to catch insects several times larger than themselves.

Dr Key said: "This is a gorgeous creature and very elegant in movement. The ladybird spider has the stealthy, purposeful walk of a bird-eating spider instead of the scuttling movement of house spiders."



Ladybird spider: the red male, left, and black female

Move into another dimension—create your own CDs.

Lots of business tools will enhance your performance. The HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus doesn't just do that — it lifts you into another dimension.

Because now you can collect together the elements of multi-media including sound, graphics, video and data, and create a vivid, sophisticated CD that will impress clients and colleagues alike. File transfer is simplicity itself, using drag and drop, whilst CDs are the ideal way to communicate

with anyone who has a standard CD-ROM. The HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus is a new generation of re-writable drive. It means you can delete or replace files on CD just like a floppy — in fact it's the equivalent of up to 450 floppies! HP offers the complete solution with drive, software as well as a blank HP re-writable CD in the box.

Go for HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus and take a leap ahead. Into another dimension. For your nearest stockist call 0990 474747.



HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus 7200 (customer) and 7200 (business) 4 speed read, 2 speed write





One of these people has a disability.

T People with disabilities make a significant contribution to the workforce. Right now there are nearly two and a half million people in the UK of working age with disabilities. That's nearly 10% of the working population. Manpower has always recognised the value of people with disabilities. They represent an important part of our workforce. Annually employing over 100,000 people, we actively provide all of them with development and career opportunities that meet their individual needs. We are proud to have won a 1997 National Training Award for our Disability Awareness training. It is a recognition of our role in understanding the particular needs and opportunities for people with disabilities.



We don't see the difference.

MANPOWER



Angus Colville

Lost air ticket led to murder

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A SCOTTISH aristocrat was stabbed to death as he went to get a replacement for a lost airline ticket while on a yachting holiday off Guatemala, Central America, an inquest was told yesterday.

Angus Colville, 58, brother of Viscount Colville of Culross, QC, had intended to spend the last few days walking in the mountains, but instead had to go to Guatemala City to pick up a new ticket.

The inquest at Tavistock, Devon, where he was a partner in a firm of chartered surveyors, was told that Mr Colville was attacked outside a sports stadium.

Julie Johnson, British vice-consul in Guatemala, said in a statement that the only known witness to the murder had told police Mr Colville had been beaten by two men before he was killed. A waist bag with money and documents was taken but the killers left a watch and a ring.

Timothy Trafford, who owned the yacht on which Mr Colville had been staying, said his friend had been advised to take taxis in unsafe areas.

A verdict of unlawful killing was recorded.

Damning report condemns Met's Lawrence inquiry

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD'S inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager, was flawed by "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" according to a scathing report published by the Police Complaints Authority yesterday.

The report was drawn up for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, based on the findings of an inquiry by Kent police after Mr Lawrence's parents complained about the way the case was handled. Mr Lawrence, 18, was stabbed by a gang of white youths in April 1993 as he waited for a bus in Eltham, South London. No body has been convicted.

Concentrating much of its criticism on Scotland Yard's first inquiry, the report paints a picture of an investigation during which senior officers were divided over who should be in charge, arrests were rushed, possible leads were ignored and detectives wrongly claimed they were hampered by lack of help from the public. When Scotland Yard reviewed the investigation the errors were not identified. Subsequent investigations were also flawed.

For a force that prides itself on the way it handles murder

cases the report will make a painful reading. At least one senior officer admitted privately that the report would have repercussions for all forces.

The authority's report demolishes Scotland Yard's claims that attempts to track down Mr Lawrence's killers were hampered by a "wall of silence" by local people. In fact there was "considerable evidence" that the people of Eltham had come forward, sometimes reluctantly, with valuable information about five white youths who were subsequently arrested for the killing.

The report said: "The early information was vital. It could only have come from sources close to the suspects since street rumour and gossip would not have had time to develop." The murder inquiry should have focused on this but there were numerous weaknesses in this area that have been identified by the complaint investigation.

Four days after the murder, there were 20 pieces of information pointing to the suspects who were eventually arrested. Some came from known sources and the anonymous sources could have been

identified if appropriate action had been taken, the report said. Information acquired from a local resident available during the first weekend after the murder might have produced evidence placing the suspects at the scene on the night of the killing, but it was not followed up for three days.

Within the first few weeks of the investigation, there was information from a number of sources, including police informants, that would have corroborated information linking four of the suspects to other knife attacks.

During the initial weekend there was even evidence available to arrest two of the suspects for a separate offence of attempted murder. "This might have assisted the investigation of Stephen Lawrence's murder. However, the detective superintendents responsible did not take this opportunity, although they were aware it was available," the report said.

"Their reasons for this decision will be one of a number of professional judgments to be commented on in the investigating officers' final report."

It said that poor handling of the identification evidence might have led to one attacker being overlooked completely by the murder inquiry team.

"An evaluation of the material shows that the murder investigation failed to analyse available information effectively by confusing a distinguishing feature of the suspects," the report said.

The report was also sharply critical of a surveillance operation mounted on a number of suspects and of the standard of the forensic tests carried out at the homes of those arrested.

"In general, the investigation has identified weaknesses in the leadership, direction and quality of work of the first murder investigation," it said. Information was not dealt



Neville and Doreen Lawrence, Stephen's parents, and his sister Cheryl Stoley outside the Home Office yesterday with the Police Complaints Authority report

with systematically and lacked the necessary analytical approach to maximise its potential to produce evidence. The quality of supervision of officers was poor and assumptions were made about the standard of work being carried out that would not have withstood proper scrutiny.

The report said that arrests were rushed, ill-prepared and ill-planned. The detective superintendent in charge of the investigation was unavoidably absent at a crucial time shortly after the arrests of the main suspects, when two senior officers each insisted

that the other was responsible for the conduct of the investigation.

The report said that much information might never have come to light but for the persistence of Mr Lawrence's parents, Doreen and Neville, who were bitterly critical of the police handling of the case. "Nor would the lines of inquiry now made available to the Metropolitan Police Service by the complaint investigation have been identified."

Last night Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said some officers may face disciplinary

hearings over the investigation. Sir Paul said he accepted the main findings of the report and that there had been problems during the initial stages of the inquiry that might have affected the outcome. He said: "I have had the privilege of meeting the Lawrences twice. I have expressed my regret, my apologies that this didn't lead to a prosecution."

The report will now be passed to Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the retired judge heading the public inquiry into the killing which is due to start taking evidence in public in February.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three die in fire at home for elderly

Three women were killed and two other people injured after a fire swept through a residential care home for the elderly yesterday.

Neighbours managed to pull one man clear of the burning four-bedroom bungalow and a care worker managed to escape by climbing out of a window. Both were treated for burns and smoke inhalation. Police said they believed the fire at the home in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, had started accidentally.

Squirrels claim

An allegation that two royal gardeners drowned squirrels in the grounds of Kensington Palace is being investigated by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "It is not strictly illegal to kill them, but it has to be done humanely, certainly not by drowning," a spokesman said.

RAF near-miss

An RAF Tornado came close to a mid-air crash when the pilot failed to see a Jersey European Airways plane, with 27 passengers, until the last moment, according to the Joint Airprox (airmiss) Working Group. Both aircraft had to make emergency turns near Exeter airport on April 8.

Shops accused

Environmentalists accused the big high-street retailers of assisting the destruction of the world's forests by failing to stock Christmas cards and wrapping paper made of recycled material. Up to a quarter of a million trees will be felled to provide such goods this year, Friends of the Earth said.

SWIFTCALL

Surprisingly cheap international calls 0800 769 0800

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME, SO BRITISH TELECOM

CAN STUFF THEIR PRICES!

Swiftcall customers receive 10% Discount on calls in Dec & Jan!

18p

7p

18p

45p

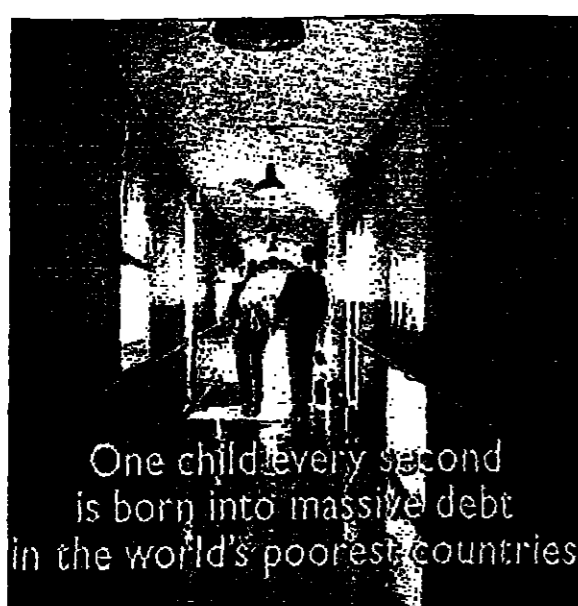
18p

Great new weekday rates

Call	Swiftcall	B.T.	Save	Call	Swiftcall	B.T.	Save
Australia	18p/22p	49p	59%	Korea (South)	49p	£1.08	55%
Canada	13p	24p	46%	Malaysia	33p	77p	57%
France	13p	28p	54%	Netherlands	13p	28p	54%
Germany	13p	28p	54%	New Zealand	27p	49p	45%
Hong Kong	27p	58p	53%	South Africa	35p	79p	56%
India	45p/54p	£1.20	59%	Spain	23p	36p	36%
Ireland	13p	23p	43%	Switzerland	20p	28p	28%
Italy	23p	36p	36%	Taiwan	41p	£1.08	62%
Japan	18p/22p	77p	74%	USA	7p/13p	24p	59%

Call us today free on 0800 769 0800 for details on fantastic savings to hundreds of other destinations and how to open your pre-paid account.

Charity stunned by ban on TV advert



Stills, above and right, from Christian Aid's commercials

Christian Aid's campaign to relieve suffering caused by Third World debt has been ruled to be too political, reports Carol Midgley

CHRISTIAN Aid condemned as "absurd" yesterday a decision by advertising watchdogs to ban a campaign that highlights the human suffering caused by Third World debt.

The charity pledged to use other media, such as the Internet, to spread its message after the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre (BACC) ruled that two advertisements breached Article Ten of the Independent Television Commission's code.

The commercials, lasting 60 seconds and 30 seconds, show sinister debt collectors snatching a dummy from a baby and seizing a syringe from a nurse, with the slogan: "One child every second is born into

massive debt in the world's poorest countries."

They were due to be shown in the new year ahead of the G8 industrialised nations' discussion of the debt crisis. But the BACC said the advertisements violated the ITC code that prevents commercials from showing any political partiality or being used for political ends. Andrew Simms, of Christian Aid, said it was ridiculous that it was possible to advertise nuclear power stations but not the suffering of human beings.

The advert was an attempt to illustrate the United Nations' warning that, without dramatic action to reduce Third World debt before the millennium, 21 million children

could die. In Africa there were countries that were spending more paying back their debts to the West than they were on their health and education budgets.

Mr Simms said: "It's about as serious as it gets... and it's about as easy to get people interested in Third World debt as it is to get them to do their tax returns."

"If it's political to raise the issue of 21 million children possibly dying through the inadequate action of the powers that be, then on that level it might be. It's a shame the BACC couldn't ban Third World debt."

He said Christian Aid would now consider "every way possible" to get the advertisement shown, from broadcasting it on the Web, sending

videos to campaigners to show in village and church halls, and getting it screened in the cinema.

A spokesman for the BACC said the advert had been viewed and it was considered that it violated the ITC code. "We have had no dialogue with Christian Aid," he said. Article Ten states: "No advertisement may be inserted by or on behalf of any body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature and no advertisement may be directed towards any political end. No advertisement may... show partiality (in respect of matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy)." Jenny Tonge, the Liberal Democrat's international development

spokeswoman, said Third World debt was one of the major problems of today. "Every day, thousands of children are dying because poor countries cannot afford basic healthcare and education — because their spare cash is spent on servicing debt instead of helping their own people. This is an humanitarian issue as much as it is a political issue."

The commercial was made by freelance director Mark Brozel, the man behind the BBC's *Modern Times* documentary *Mange Tout*. He said he was surprised that it had been banned from television screens. "We wanted to make a provocative but rather subtle and witty ad that didn't take a sledge-

hammer approach to the issue," he said. "As far as I am concerned it is the situation that is controversial, not the advert." Mr Simms added that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and most governments agreed there was a problem, so it was not taking a controversial stance.

Earlier this year an advertising campaign by the Vegetarian Society that linked eating red meat to contracting cancer was withdrawn after the Advertising Standards Authority said it was misleading.

In 1995, the ASA criticised the NSPCC, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the International Fund for Animal Welfare for "stretching the truth" in their campaigns.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NatWest £15,000 charges mistake

Graham Walker, 48, a former builder forced to sell his four-bedroom house in Walsall in 1992 as he battled to pay interest charges, has found that NatWest overcharged him by £15,000 over four years on his £160,000 loan.

After an independent audit the bank has now conceded that it overcharged Mr Walker, now a consultant engineer, of Chelmsford, Essex.

Flight delays

Holidaymakers are likely to face more flight delays next summer caused by air-traffic-control problems, it emerged, after figures showed that such delays in Europe rose by 6 per cent this summer over the previous year.

MP's damages

Labour MP Derek Foster won "substantial" damages from the *Newcastle Sunday Sun* over allegations that he had failed to give proper care and support to MP Gordon McMaster in the run-up to his death last July.

Cook's tour

Thousands gathered at Whitby, North Yorkshire, to see off a replica of Captain Cook's *Endeavour*, the ship on which he left the port in 1768 to discover Australia. The replica was returning to Fremantle after a re-fit.

M-way protest

About 20 environmental protesters attempted to disrupt yesterday's opening ceremony of the 13-mile M65 extension near Blackburn, Lancashire, attended by Home Secretary Jack Straw. There were no arrests.

Arts accolade

Sir Ernest Hall, a businessman who spent 14 years transforming a factory in Halifax into the Dean Clough arts centre, was presented with the Goodman Award by the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

Hit numbers

Callers phoning companies stayed on hold for 20 per cent longer if they were played music, researchers at Leicester University found. The Beatles were the most popular listening; sales messages were disliked.

Alsatian licks bite rap by joining the police

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A CASE brought against a woman for having a dangerous Alsatian was dropped — because the dog has joined the police.

Anne Dent faced the allegation after her dog, Ben, tried to bite a visitor to her home at Harworth, Nottinghamshire.

But Jane Ball, for the prosecution, told magistrates at Worksop that the case had been withdrawn "because the owner has decided to channel the dog's interests in the right direction — it's going to be a police dog".

After the hearing, Mrs Ball said: "I must admit it is an unusual situation — a

first for me. The case became void because she [the defendant] no longer had the dog. It is unusual that she gave the dog to the police. To be fair, the dog was using its natural instincts. Now these instincts can be channelled to help the police."

A neighbour said: "I would not care to be alone with Ben. He could be boisterous. This seems to be the perfect solution. I hope he sinks his teeth into someone who deserves it."

A security guard was bitten by his own rottweiler when he slipped down a muddy bank as he chased four trespassers. Mick

Canty rang for an ambulance as he lay injured, but when the crew arrived they found they were locked out of the site, because Mr Canty had lost his keys in the fall, and had to climb over a fence. Mr Canty, 48, who works for K9 Security, based in Dudley, West Midlands, needed stitches to the bite in his arm.

Mike Brownhill, K9 Security Director, said the dog, Blue, had become confused during the pursuit. "Mick had that dog since it was a pup and it's a pet, daft as a barrel of pop," he said. "He doesn't bear the dog any ill feelings and they are still the best of friends."

Christie killer jailed

A COCAINE addict who stabbed the brother of Olympic runner Linford Christie to death was jailed for five years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Simon Williams, 32, unemployed and of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of 34-year-old Russell Christie, who died from a single stab wound to the neck after a row over crack cocaine in Notting Hill, west London, last December.

The Recorder of London, Judge Lawrence Verney, said that while Christie was "quite prepared for violence", he had lost his life. He sentenced Williams to four years and three months for the manslaughter of Christie, and to nine months for actual bodily harm to a London taxi driver.

Songbird Two cleared of wild bird bloodbath

BY JOHN VINCENT

FOR decades they have been condemned without a fair trial. But now research has cleared the magpie and the sparrowhawk of devastating Britain's population of small birds.

A rise in numbers of the two predators over the past 25 years has coincided with major declines in populations of bullfinch, skylark, linnet, reed bunting, song thrush and tree sparrow.

Results of a new study, however, show that modern agricultural practices are the true culprits. Herbicides have virtually eliminated seed-bearing weeds from crops and winter stubble is rarely available. The reappraisal of the



The magpie: not guilty

magpie and the sparrowhawk will be announced today at the annual meeting of the British Ecological Society at the University of Warwick. It follows analysis of data involving 23 small-bird species, gathered at more than 100 sites over 25 years and involving nearly 100,000 hours of fieldwork by British Trust for Ornithology volunteers for the Joint Nature

Conservation Committee. David Thomson, senior author of the report by the BTO and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "There were thousands of examples and we could find no direct relationship between the increase in predators and the decline in small birds. In essence, the magpie and the sparrowhawk have been found not guilty."

BTO figures already published reveal that magpie and sparrowhawk populations have tripled in 25 years, coinciding with massive declines in numbers of bullfinches (down 76 per cent), linnets (52 per cent), tree sparrows (69 per cent), skylarks (58 per cent), song thrushes (73 per cent) and reed buntings (61 per cent).

We promise
to save you money on
your phone bill...
...or give you back
double the difference.

Will you promise to call us?
(0500 500 366.)

This is our promise: if you don't make savings on your call bill compared with BT's basic rate (even against their PremierLine and Friends

& Family schemes but excluding temporary promotions), we'll give you back double the difference.* Of course, you don't have to

promise us anything at all. But to see how much you could save, why don't you ring us now on FreeCall 0500 500 366 quoting RTIMCU.



CABLE & WIRELESS
What can we do for you?

*Price Pledge terms apply on Cable & Wireless SmartCall, UK-Call and LocalCall bills only. For non-cable customers the Price Pledge comparison is on call charges only; for cable customers it is call charges and line rental. Application subject to status. Not available for Calling Card and non-geographic calls including mobiles. For quality of service purposes we may occasionally monitor or record your telephone calls with Cable & Wireless.

Lawyers' walkout leaves Carlos in trial limelight

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE legal defence team of Carlos the Jackal became a one-man band yesterday, after his lawyers stormed out of a Paris court claiming that his murder trial was illegal and unjust.

Carlos, 48, whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, stands accused of shooting two French Secret Service agents and their Lebanese informer in 1975.

No fewer than 29 lawyers have been advising Carlos on legal strategy, but from the start of his trial the accused terrorist mastermind has left no doubt that intends to manage his own, highly eccentric defence.

His lawyer, Isabelle Coutant-Peyre, argued that the trial should be called off immediately because Carlos had been "illegally" snatched from Sudan by French agents in 1994.

After Yves Corneloup, the presiding judge, rejected the defence appeal, Mme Coutant-Peyre announced she was withdrawing from the case, along with her two fellow defence lawyers. "Your deci-

sion is contrary to the principles I am sworn to defend," the lawyer said. Judge Corneloup ordered her to continue representing Carlos, but she refused, and may now face disciplinary action by the court.

Carlos spent three years in solitary confinement in the run-up to the trial, and seemed quite unfazed to be left in legal isolation after the latest act of courtroom melodrama in what is building up to be one of the strangest legal cases of recent times.

Since French procedure calls for defendants to be represented, the court, after a recess, appointed a new attorney to defend Carlos.

Defending himself from the dock with typical gusto, Carlos launched into a fresh flurry of objections, accusing Judge Corneloup of a conflict of interest and insisting that the 1975 killings were the fault of Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

"These policemen were sent to the slaughterhouse by Israeli agents," the Venezuelan-born Carlos declared,

speaking French with an almost impenetrable Spanish accent.

He also argued that Judge Corneloup should be disqualified from presiding since, earlier in his career, he had investigated a 1979 bombing for which Carlos was held responsible.

Carlos said that Judge Corneloup had also carried out an inquiry into the 1983 bombing of a Paris restaurant in which Françoise Rudeski, the head of the terrorist victims' support group SOS Attentats, was injured.

SOS Attentats is representing the families of the men murdered in 1975 as civil plaintiffs, and on the opening day of the trial last Friday Carlos argued that the group was "Zionist, racist and revisionist" and should be prevented from participating.

Judge Corneloup, whose tolerance of Carlos's theatrical tendencies may be wearing thin, rejected that appeal and flatly refused to halt the trial, pointing out that his capture had already been approved by France's highest court.



Homeless Russian men sleeping in Moscow yesterday after the city suffered its coldest mid-December night in a century as the temperature fell to -27C (-17F). Four people died, 160 were taken to hospital and schools were forced to shut.

Jobless Germans drown misery in sangria dreams

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

SANGRIA, it seems, is the opiate of the German worker. Elbowing their way into the discos and clubs of the Ruhr, tens of thousands of youths are crowding into Mallorca parties which reproduce all the dubious pleasures of the El Arenal resort wet T-shirt and beer-belly contests and, of course, sangria drunk from plastic buckets with long straws.

The reason for this strange cult is the phenomenal success of a film, *Ballermann 6*, which is that rare thing, a German comedy hit. One million Germans saw it in the first five days after its release, two million people had seen it after five weeks. Viewers imitate the heroes by turning up at the cinemas in wet, grey industrial cities, wearing Bermuda shorts, straw hats and sandals.

It does for Spain what *Trainspotting* did for steam engines — very little.

start by vomiting on fellow airline passengers and one gets stuck in the lavatory. After that, the film is all downhill. The heroes nearly drown in a huge sangria bucket which also contains two women in bikinis.

The serious underpinning of the *Ballermann* cult is that the morale of the younger members of the German working class has rarely been lower. Unemployment is at postwar record highs and is edging up towards five million. Trips to Mallorca are cheap, even for the unemployed. They fly over with their friends, eat German food, get drunk on German beer and then return. *Ballermann 6* celebrates this, and probably prods the memory of many who were too comatose at the time to recall what actually happened on the island.

— Michael Douglas, Claudia Schiffer, Boris Becker all have a foothold — and the concrete silos of the package resorts.

So extensive is the German colonisation — *Der Spiegel* magazine calls it the 17th German state — that one businessman has started a political party for German residents. Another German businessman, known as the Beer King of the Island because of his hold on alcohol distribution, was recently the victim of a mob killing.

The *Ballermann* film has spawned Top Ten hits, T-shirts, cigarette lighters, baseball caps, schnapps bot-

les, perfume, beer, condoms and easily unfastened *Ballermann* bras. The film stars two working-class boys who stagger their way around the resort. They get off to a good start by vomiting on fellow airline passengers and one gets stuck in the lavatory. After that, the film is all downhill. The heroes nearly drown in a huge sangria bucket which also contains two women in bikinis.

The serious underpinning of the *Ballermann* cult is that the morale of the younger members of the German working class has rarely been lower. Unemployment is at postwar record highs and is edging up towards five million. Trips to Mallorca are cheap, even for the unemployed. They fly over with their friends, eat German food, get drunk on German beer and then return. *Ballermann 6* celebrates this, and probably prods the memory of many who were too comatose at the time to recall what actually happened on the island.

Danes play host to suspected Bosnian war criminal

FROM TOM WALKER IN BIELINA

EMBARRASSED Danish officials have admitted that a suspected Bosnian Serb war criminal spent a week in their country observing last month's local elections. His travel arrangements in and out of Bosnia were made by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Ljubisa Savic — nicknamed "Mauzer" — is said by many international and local observers to have played a lead role in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims from Bijelina, the most important town in northeast Bosnia,

which coincided with some of the war's worst atrocities.

Mix-ups and administrative bungles seem to have led to Mr Savic's invitation to Denmark as part of a group of Bosnian observers who left Sarajevo on November 13. A convert to the politics of Biljana Plavsic, the Western-backed Bosnian Serb President, Mr Savic was selected as a suitable witness to the democratic process by the National Assembly of Danish Municipalities. After being brought to the Bosnian capital by the OSCE from Bosnian Serb territory, he was flown by Austrian Airlines to Vienna and then on to Copenhagen.

"We found out just about as soon as he'd taken off that he had a history,"

said a Danish source in Sarajevo yesterday.

Alarm bells were, meanwhile, ringing inside the Bosnian Government, which had been telephoned by angry Muslims from the Austrian Airlines flight after it reached Vienna. With no known indictment or arrest warrant for Mr Savic, however, nothing could be done and he continued to Denmark. Danish and OSCE officials helped to reroute his trip back to Bosnia via the Serbian capital, Belgrade, after Mr Savic said he feared he would be arrested in Sarajevo.

The OSCE has wiped its hands of the affair, saying it was asked only at the last minute to help the Danes.

The Danish source said a well-meaning idea from municipal authority observers to the Bosnian elections had backfired.

Back in the relative sanctity of Republika Srpska, Mr Savic said that he lived in fear of Sarajevo and the Bosnian Serb hardliners. He now heads the executive board of the Democratic Party of Republika Srpska, which is fighting Radovan Karadzic loyalists for control of Bijelina, one of Republika Srpska's few towns with economic potential.

His detractors — and they are legion — accuse him of widespread ethnic cleansing in 1992, when his "Panther" paramilitaries joined forces with thugs operating under the

notorious Serb warlord Arkan. Mr Savic says he helped to move Muslims to the safety of Bosnian Federation territory or abroad, knowing that if they stayed they might be killed.

Washington: President Clinton visits troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina next week in a Christmas trip designed to build the case for an extended US presence in the Balkans beyond June's scheduled withdrawal of Nato forces (Tom Rhodes writes).

Mr Clinton, who last visited Bosnia in January 1996, will tour Sarajevo and Tuzla, the region's biggest US base, during a whistle-stop visit. He will spend only 12 hours on the ground.

Sainsbury's. Voted best fruit and vegetable counter by readers of Woman Magazine.

"Competitive pricing"... "Superb freshness"... Woman Magazine readers voted Sainsbury's best fruit and vegetable counter in the 1997 Woman Supermarket Awards. But don't just take their word for it. Try us for yourself.

Sainsbury's
FRESH FOOD, FRESH IDEAS.

هكزا من الأكل

Shortages damp spirit of Cuba's Christmas cheer

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

NEWS that Cubans will be able to celebrate Christmas as a holiday for the first time in 29 years caused widespread excitement yesterday. This was tempered, however, by the fact that most Cubans have little to look forward to. Churches will be open to all, but only those with access to US dollars sent by relatives in Miami are likely to be able to enjoy traditional Christmas festivities.

Most traditional Christmas decorations are only available at a limited number of government-run hard-currency stores. Children's toys are a rarity, and priced beyond the reach of most Cubans, who are paid on average the equivalent in local currency, the peso, of about \$10 (£5.95) a month.

Even the traditional Cuban Christmas dinner staples, rum and pork, are almost impossible to come by in pesos. The Government is doing its best this year to make things as merry as possible by halving the price of pork and selling scarce Cuban rum and Spanish wines at rock-bottom dollar prices.

For the first time, selected dollar shops have decorated their windows with frosty Christmas scenes and stocked their shelves with plastic Christmas trees and Father

Christmas. For those who cannot afford a tree, there is a flourishing black market trade in pine-tree branches being smuggled into the capital, Havana, from the countryside. From a purely spiritual point of view, the news has been welcomed by the Vatican. Joaquin Navarro Valls, the Vatican spokesman, said he was "grateful" and "satisfied" with the decision which was "desired by all the Cuban people and the Cuban church". He did not comment on the fact that the holiday announced by President Castro is for this year only.

The announcement is one of a series of concessions that the Vatican had been seeking prior to a visit by the Pope to Cuba next month. It could signal the Government's willingness to give ground on other issues. The Vatican is still waiting to be allowed time on state-run Cuban television to publicise the Pope's visit. It has also asked that four open-air Masses be shown live on television. Cuba has said that may be impossible because economic cutbacks have stopped daytime broadcasts on Cuban television.

The Government has so far not responded to requests that the Vatican be allowed to control the camera angles and

narration of the broadcasts of papal ceremonies.

Without providing any details, the state-run news agency, Prensa Latina, reported that President Castro had promised to help the Vatican to secure access to state radio and television. The President also promised at the weekend that the government media would publish and broadcast the Pope's traditional Christmas message.

However, observers remain sceptical. Despite the historic nature of the visit — it is the first by a Pope since the 1959 Cuban Revolution — the local media have largely ignored it. Since the visit was announced more than a year ago, the official party newspaper, *Granma*, has published a total of eight articles about it. After decades of being cut off from the influences of Roman Catholicism, many Cubans remain ignorant of the Pope's role as head of the church. He is expected to push for a greater church role in education, as well as permits for more foreign missionary clergy and nuns.

The Government officially declared itself Communist and atheist in 1962, although Christmas Day continued to be celebrated as a holiday until 1969. Catholic priests were expelled.

Iraq 'stalling on arms details'

Nicosia: Richard Butler, the United Nations official in charge of dismantling President Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, reported little progress in talks with senior Iraqi officials in Baghdad yesterday (Michael Theodorou writes). He said discussions on the core issue of access to dozens of restricted sites were not

over yet, but added that he was disappointed that Iraq had failed to fulfil its promises to divulge new information on its outlawed biological and chemical weapons programmes. "Biology did not present anything new at all. In fact [Iraq gave] a rather defiant statement that said 'Nothing, there is nothing'," Mr Butler said. "Chemistry,

we are still arguing about the nerve gas called VX."

Details emerged last night of the recent executions in Iraqi jails of 800 suspected dissidents. Relatives are being asked to pay 250,000 dinars, the equivalent of several months' wages, to collect bodies.

Leading article, page 19



President Clinton with his three-month-old, chocolate-coloured Labrador, which has joined the family cat, Socks, in the White House. The puppy is not yet named

Record number executed in jails of US

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

MORE prisoners were executed in 1997 than in any year since the United States restored the death penalty in 1976, according to the Justice Department.

Texas, which carried out exactly half of the total of 74 executions, was entirely responsible for the leap in the national figures from 45 executions in 1996. The state, which carried out only three executions in 1996, described itself as having a "backlog" of prisoners on death row until this year. Its total of 37 is the highest number of executions carried out by a single state in one year since 1930, when records began.

Virginia was far behind in second place, with nine executions. All of the 74 executed were men. Of the 70 executed by November 30, 44 were white, 24 black and two of other races. The last execution of a woman was in 1984.

Opponents of the death penalty yesterday seized on the figures as support for their case that executions are a "lottery" in which the numbers of the poorest and mentally handicapped come up most often. Donald Cabana, the former warden of Mississippi's Parchman prison, told *Vanity Fair* magazine this week that the penalty was "binge personified".

The figures show the impact of the last year's federal Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which sharply curtailed the appeals process. The leap also reflects the growing popularity of the death penalty among state governments. Only New England is a liberal bastion.

The rise is supported by the majority of Americans. A Harris poll in 1995, when there were only seven executions, found 47 per cent opposed to the penalty and 38 per cent in favour; this year a Harris poll found nationwide support had doubled.



John Belushi: star of *Animal House*

The booze brothers still rule on campus

BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

DISGRACEFUL behaviour is flourishing in the fraternity houses of American universities. Members still drink and party, reports a disapproving team of academics in the latest issue of the *Journal of Studies of Alcohol*.

Far from setting an example, leaders of fraternities — named after the Greek alphabet — drink more, pass out more often, suffer more hangovers and take part in more fights than ordinary members. On this evidence, the comedy film *Animal House* deserves reclassification as a documentary.

The authors, from the universities of Cornell and Southern Illinois, defined "binge drinking" as five or more drinks in a row, and discovered after gathering data from 25,411 students at 61 institutions that three quarters of fraternity leaders had reached that target at least once in the previous fortnight. In sororities, 55 per cent of leaders were "binge drinkers".

Both sexes agreed that drink "facilitates sexual opportunities", with men holding the view more strongly. "Students see alcohol as a vehicle for friendship, social activity and sexual opportunity, and these beliefs clearly occur to a greater degree among Greeks [fraternity-members] than non-Greeks," says Dr Cheryl Presley.

ble
re.

and beauty
readers of Woman Magazine.

"It's luxury on a budget"... "I'm really spoilt for choice"... Woman Magazine readers voted Sainsbury's best health and beauty department in the 1997 Woman Supermarket Awards. But don't just take their word for it. Try us for yourself.

Sainsbury's
FRESH FOOD, FRESH IDEAS.

Mandela hands ANC leadership to sharp-suited master of survival



Mbeki critics say he is Machiavellian

BY SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Nelson Mandela steps down as president of the African National Congress today and bows out of daily politics to enjoy being a largely ceremonial head of state for the next two years, real power in South Africa will be concentrated in the hands of a man variously described as a "delight" and a "shadowy manipulator".

Pipe-smoking, sharp-suited, sincere and level-headed, Thabo Mbeki, 55, is much liked and admired by South Africa's big businessmen. A long-time member of the Communist Party, he received military training in the former Soviet Union, and now often dines at the home of a former M16 agent near Johannesburg.

His ability to sup with his former enemies reveals what his critics say is a shamelessly Machiavellian streak. To his friends, it shows he has taken Mr Mandela's mantra of reconciliation and compromise to heart. The truth lies somewhere between the two.

A dull but boring public speaker, Mr Mbeki will be elected unopposed to the presidency of the ANC on Thursday morning. Already Deputy President of South Africa, he has been running the country and chairing Cabinet meetings for

the past year. The top party post will ensure that he will also succeed Mr Mandela to the presidency in the 1999 general elections. Just as the ANC was anxious to ensure a smooth transition from white rule to democracy, so it has been keen to ensure there are no potholes in the road for Mr Mbeki. But there have been prominent casualties shouldered aside by the ambitious son of Govan Mbeki, who with Mr Mandela and Walter Sisulu formed a triumvirate at the heart of the party.

The first to fall was Cyril Ramaphosa, the former general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, who became the

ANC's chief negotiator in constitutional talks with the National Party government. He might have expected to be chosen as Mr Mandela's number two after the 1994 elections. Passed over, he left politics for the private sector. Bantu Holomisa, the former military leader of the Transkei homeland, left the ANC this year in a row over his publicising of corruption in the party. More recently Tokyo Sexwale, the Premier of Gauteng province, announced he was also leaving politics after a squabble with Mr Mbeki.

His critics are quick to accuse Mr Mbeki of Stalinist tendencies over his alleged inability to tolerate

dissent and because he appears able to drive his nearest rivals into political oblivion. But Messrs Ramaphosa, Holomisa and Sexwale were perhaps also seen as being a little too charismatic for the top post, not quite team players.

When asked how he would fill Mr Mandela's shoes, Mr Mbeki's tongue-in-cheek reply was: "Well, I can't imagine that there's any such requirement. I mean, he's got very big feet. What does that mean? Does it mean we start off by going to jail for 27 years and then sort of graduate from there, grow taller, wear those strange shirts? No, no, it's not a rational expectation."

He said that, as it was the ANC "organs" which decided policy just as Mr Mandela has had to consult the "movement" before taking decisions, so he would be bound by the same strictures. "There will be no sudden changes," he said.

But Mr Mbeki will face challenges spared Mr Mandela due to the reverence he is shown by South Africans both inside and outside the ANC.

The biggest may emerge from within the party, which is showing signs that its membership feels isolated from its top leaders, most of whom come from the group of exiles who spent most of their lives fighting the white regime from outside the country.

Albright signals softer US approach on Africa

BY SAM KILEY IN HARARE
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, yesterday signalled a switch in United States foreign policy on Africa, softening a previously tough approach towards African dictators.

Briefly stopping in Harare at the end of her first tour of Africa that took her to seven countries on the continent, Mrs Albright said she had come to the continent to listen. "I have listened, and I think as a result of that I feel very strongly that human rights and the rule of law has to continue to be the bedrock of our relationship."

"But we have to understand the local context," she added. "We make a mistake if we think every African country is the same and we can just organise [things] the way that we think everything should be done."

After an hour-long meeting with President Mugabe, she told a Harare press conference of "the great leadership role the President has been fulfilling".

The subtle shift in American policy towards Africa was reflected at each of Mrs

Albright's stops as she promoted engagement without judgment, the mantra that marked America's relationship with China during President Clinton's first term.

Her remarks yesterday came after strikes and rioting in Harare last week. Morgan Tsvangirai, a union leader, was beaten up in his office by five men and two women after he organised last week's general strike, which shut down the private and public sectors in a spectacular show of discontent with 17 years of Mr Mugabe's rule. He blamed the attack on the Government, and his assailants were identified as members of Zanu's youth wing. Few locals believe they will be successfully prosecuted.

The assault on the union leader and reports that the army was moments from intervening with bullets against strikers have left many fearing that future protests will be suppressed savagely. "Strikes are something that we must use very sparingly and responsibly. We cannot give the Government the chance to fulfil its promise to use live



Madeleine Albright relaxes at the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, the last leg of a seven-nation tour of Africa

ammunition to break up demonstrations in the future," said Mr Tsvangirai, recuperating at his home on the outskirts of the capital.

The success of the strike, which ended in riots after police defied a court order to allow peaceful demonstrations in Harare and fired tear-gas into the crowd, has caused panic in Zanu ranks, too. Outsiders wonder how long Mr Mugabe, 76, can stay in power.

Ranged against him is what he has called an "unholy

alliance". Private businesses paid their employees a full day's wage on the day of the strike, which also had the support of the conservative Commercial Farmers' Union (mostly white landowners) and the public-sector unions which, until last week, were staunchly pro-Zanu.

"How can you run a country when everyone feels alienated? Mugabe's arrogance has created a convergence of discontent," said Mr Tsvangirai.

With unemployment of at least 33 per cent, inflation over

30 per cent, the Zimbabwe dollar in freefall and capital fleeing fast after the announcement of plans to seize 1,503 commercial farms without compensation, Mr Mugabe has very little good news to shore up his power base.

"The man is either mad, stupid, or both. No one here wants anything more than a change of government," said Wilson Ncube, a street cobbler. "The rich hate him, but the poor hate him more. His Government is corrupt from top to bottom."

Many of Mr Mugabe's problems began with a campaign for compensation launched by veterans of the war against white minority rule. Their rage reached fever pitch when an investigation by the independent press revealed that the President's cronies had been awarded payouts of tens of thousands of pounds for spurious injuries sustained during the war.

Fuel and power levies to veterans were shelved after the protests last week.

Black Muslim leader flees Jerusalem after death threat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

LOUIS FARRAKHAN, the American black Muslim leader, hastily cancelled a visit to Jerusalem's Islamic holy sites yesterday and crossed back into Jordan after reports of death threats by Jewish extremists.

The Nation of Islam leader, on a 52-nation world tour, caught Israel's intelligence services by surprise when he crossed the Israeli-guarded Allenby Bridge from Jordan to the

West Bank on Sunday. Yesterday, after talks with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in Gaza and an overnight stay in the Palestinian self-rule town of Ramallah, Mr Farrakhan left as unexpectedly as he had arrived, claiming he felt unwelcome in Israel and feared for his safety.

He said that he had changed his plans after learning of planned Jewish protests against his visit to Al Aqsa Mosque in annexed east Jerusalem, the third holiest Islamic shrine after Mecca and Medina. "If

anything should happen to me in this land, it could not bring good results in black-Jewish relations in the US, so in the interest of peace I think it is best that I leave," he said.

Israeli officials made no secret of their relief at his quick exit. The right-wing Government had reviewed banning him from the country because of his alleged anti-Semitism, but had declined because he was travelling on an American passport and Israeli-US relations are already strained over the lack of progress in the Middle East peace

process. "I think the moment he leaves here, we can say we are blessed to be rid of this anti-Semite and racist," said Danny Naveh, the Israeli Cabinet Secretary and a close confidant of the Prime Minister. "His meetings with the Palestinian leadership are proof of the maxim: 'Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are.'"

Mr Arafat praised the black leader. "We are very happy to have this opportunity to meet our brother in our land," he said in Gaza. "We spoke in detail of all the difficulties

we are facing and how to push forward the process for peace."

Settler jailed: The founder of the West Bank settler movement, Moshe Levinger, was jailed for six months for assault and disturbing the peace three years ago in Hebron. Jerusalem magistrates also fined him 8,000 shekels (£1,400) as part of a plea bargain. Levinger was convicted of disturbing Muslim prayers at Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs and for blocking an army commander from entering the nearby Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba. (AP)

WORLD IN BRIEF

Britons hostage in Nigerian job row

Two Britons are among a number of foreign oil workers being held hostage on a Nigerian houseboat in a labour dispute between Nigerian employees and Western Geophysical, the Houston-based oil exploration company (Victoria Fletcher writes). A third Briton was released yesterday from the boat, near Benin City in the southwest. The Foreign Office has named Paul Breslin as one of those held since last Saturday.

Foreign Office officials were confident there would be a quick and peaceful end to the incident. "None of the hostages has been harmed and they are all in touch with their families by phone," a spokesman said.

Doctors to pay for failure

Karlsruhe: Germany's highest court said doctors who failed to perform sterilisation operations successfully could be liable for the upkeep of children born subsequently. The Constitutional Court ruling came in the case of a urologist who had appealed against an order by a lower court to pay maintenance to a patient after the birth of a child. In a separate judgment, the court ruled that a doctor could be ordered to pay maintenance if a child was born disabled after its parents were given misleading genetic advice. (Reuters)

Malnutrition 'emergency'

Geneva: Infant malnutrition, which affects one child in two in South Asia and one in three in Africa, is the world's "silent emergency". Unicef said in its annual assessment. Twelve million children under five die every year and malnutrition is a factor in 55 per cent of cases. The report said the world had sufficient food resources to overcome the problem. Although linked to poverty, it noted that malnutrition was widespread in developed countries such as Britain and the US. (AFP)

Rescue team finds boy skier

Bonneville: A six-year-old skier was found unhurt by French mountain rescue workers after disappearing on Sunday and falling 190ft down a crevasse. The boy, from Switzerland, disappeared while skiing behind his parents and sister on the Flaine mountain, near here. Rescue workers located the crevasse after finding one of the boy's skis. They said his fall was broken by a thick layer of snow at the bottom. (AFP)

Ramos choice challenged

Manila: Renato de Villa, right, a former Philippines Defence Secretary, broke ranks with President Ramos and launched his own presidential bid for the 1998 election, challenging the man nominated by the President to succeed him (Abby Tan writes). Mr de Villa, 62, a soldier whose career path closely followed that of Mr Ramos, his mentor, said he would oppose the President's choice, José de Venecia, the Speaker in the lower house.



Homeless rate soars in US

Washington: Soaring rates of hunger and homelessness in US cities are casting doubt on ambitious welfare reforms (Brown Maddox writes). City mayors are concerned by a survey of 29 cities by the United States Conference of Mayors which found that demand for food rose by 16 per cent in 1997, the largest jump for five years.

Aristocrat's red-letter day

Moscow: A descendant of Count Grigori Orlov, a lover of Catherine the Great, has won election to the Moscow city council, Tass said. Stepan Orlov, an independent, became the first aristocrat elected to a legislative body since the Russian Revolution, the agency reported. (AFP)

LOW COST OF OWNERSHIP. NOW EVEN LOWER!

£699 +VAT

SPECIAL PRICE

ENDS DEC 31 '97

Specifications

Intel 166MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology • 16MB SDRAM • 512KB pipeline burst L2 cache • 2.1GB Ultra ATA hard drive • Hardware management controller • 16 bit audio • Windows 95 pre-installed • 14" SVGAe monitor • 10/100 Auto sensing Ethernet option*

ONLY £699 +VAT (£821 incl. VAT)

Intel 233MHz Pentium®II processor • 32MB SDRAM • 512KB L2 cache • 2.1GB Ultra ATA hard drive • Hardware management controller • 16 bit audio • Windows 95 pre-installed • 14" SVGAe monitor • 10/100 Auto sensing Ethernet option*

ONLY £999 +VAT (£1174 incl. VAT)

0800 212422

hotline@mitsubishi-computers.com www.mitsubishi-computers.com/tm

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC

COMPUTERS FOR A CONNECTED WORLD

All trademarks acknowledged. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Please note that not all products in the Apricot LS family contain the Intel Pentium II processor. Prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press. Specifications are liable to change. * Ethernet option available at additional cost. E+VCE

Asia appeals for global aid to steady markets

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN KUALA LUMPUR

THE once proud leaders of the former tiger economies of South-East Asia, reeling from falling stock markets and plummeting currencies, yesterday called for international assistance in helping to curb the financial crisis gripping the region.

Even as Asian leaders met at the summit here, the Malaysian ringgit, the Thai baht and the Indonesian rupiah fell to record lows, in the latter case over continuing fears for the health of President Suharto, 76.

In a bid to reassure his countrymen, President Suharto has been shown on Indonesian television, but he remained seated. Some Indonesians fear that their leader, known to have wanted to attend the current crisis summit of the Association of

South-East Asian Nations (Asean), had suffered a stroke.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, hosting the summit which this time includes Japan, China and South Korea, yesterday witnessed the ringgit fall to an embarrassing all-time low point against the US dollar. He called for greater efforts by the United States, Europe and Japan to ease global market problems.

"Despite the economic fundamentals of the regional economies being corrected and improved through the support and advice of the International Monetary Fund, the depreciation of the currencies has continued unabated," Dr Mahathir said. "This has resulted in serious regression in the economic well-being of

the countries, their businesses and their peoples," he said, hinting at the threat to social stability caused by the turmoil in financial markets.

As the summit got under way yesterday at the luxurious Palace of the Golden Horseshoes resort — somewhat at odds with the austerity the region will inevitably face — the Malaysian leader, 71, said that every effort should be made to remove barriers to trade and to promote greater trade and investment within Asean. However, the grouping was not trying to establish a trading bloc. "The wealth of our countries is depleted and we no longer have the money to pay for goods imported from overseas," he said. Malaysians have been encouraged to plant vegetables in their gardens and conserve resources.

The IMF has arranged loans for the region totalling \$100 billion (£61.8 billion), but Asean leaders believe more is needed because currencies remain weak and investor confidence low. Moreover, there appears to be growing unease about the way the IMF is helping the region and Dr Mahathir believes that some of the IMF strategies should be reconsidered. He accused the IMF of looking at the macro-economic picture only, and not seeing the impact of its measures.

The three-day summit meeting was intended as a 30th anniversary party for Asean. But it was transformed into the present crisis summit with the region's financial turmoil at the top of the agenda.

President Jiang Zemin of China told the summit leaders that Asia's financial upheavals had "taught people a profound lesson". Economic development would improve once East Asian nations had learnt the lesson, and had made the necessary readjustments.



HMS Nottingham, with 250 servicemen on a rest and recreation sojourn, sails into the Victoria Harbour yesterday to become the first British warship to visit Hong Kong after the transfer of sovereignty to China

Hong Kong democrat cuts UK link

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

EMILY LAU, Hong Kong's most vigorous and popular democrat, said yesterday that she will give up her British passport to run for the Legislative Council next year.

"The law requires all candidates for direct election not to have foreign passports. I want to stand for direct election," she said.

Hong Kong will next year hold its first elections for the council since the transfer of sovereignty to China. Since the handover the present 60 members, selected by a 400-member committee appointed by Beijing, have been passing laws. They replaced the wholly elected body which the new Government expunged.

Under the Basic Law, China's mini-constitution for Hong Kong, there will be a series of four-yearly elections



Emily Lau: will fight direct elections

which may culminate in 2007 with a completely elected body and even chief executive.

One third of the seats in next year's election will be directly elected in accordance with a proportional representation system which many here charge was devised by Beijing

to limit the number of democratically inclined candidates like Ms Lau to 12, instead of the 24 in the last elected council. The remaining 40 seats will be elected by "functional constituencies," based on occupation, some of which are very small, or by an election committee of Beijing allies. Twelve of the "functional" members may hold foreign passports.

Next year's council, like the present one, will therefore consist of many members defeated by democrats in 1995, although a public opinion poll published yesterday by the South China Morning Post showed that, if there were an immediate first-past-the-post election, democrats would win a substantial majority.

Ms Lau is determined to win one of the 20 directly elected seats, for which she must abandon her British citizenship, acquired in the

1980s. Before the handover she had often given a warning that she might leave Hong Kong. Instead she formed the Frontier Party, which stands for an immediately elected council and chief executive by a one-man, one-vote system.

In all public opinion polls during the past five years Ms Lau, 45, a council member until July, scored in the top three most popular political figures, and even without a seat she has maintained her constituency office and rousing political style.

A graduate of the University of Southern California and the LSE, until her election to the council in 1991 Ms Lau was one of Hong Kong's most outspoken journalists, a constant thorn in the side of British politicians of whom she demanded immediate and total democracy.

Letters, page 23

Hun Sen's tanks pound rival's bastion

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN BANGKOK

HUN SEN, the Cambodian leader, yesterday launched an attack supported by tanks on the last bastion of his rival Co-Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in the northwest of the country, the Thai military reported.

The battle for the border town of O'Smach broke out early in the day and continued amid fierce firefights until the afternoon, sources in the Thai task force responsible for border control said. "The fighting today was heavy," a military officer said.

The fighting broke out during an informal summit of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. Cambodia had been due to join the nine-member grouping in July along with Laos, but its admission was postponed after the violent street battles which broke out in Phnom Penh, ousting the Prince.

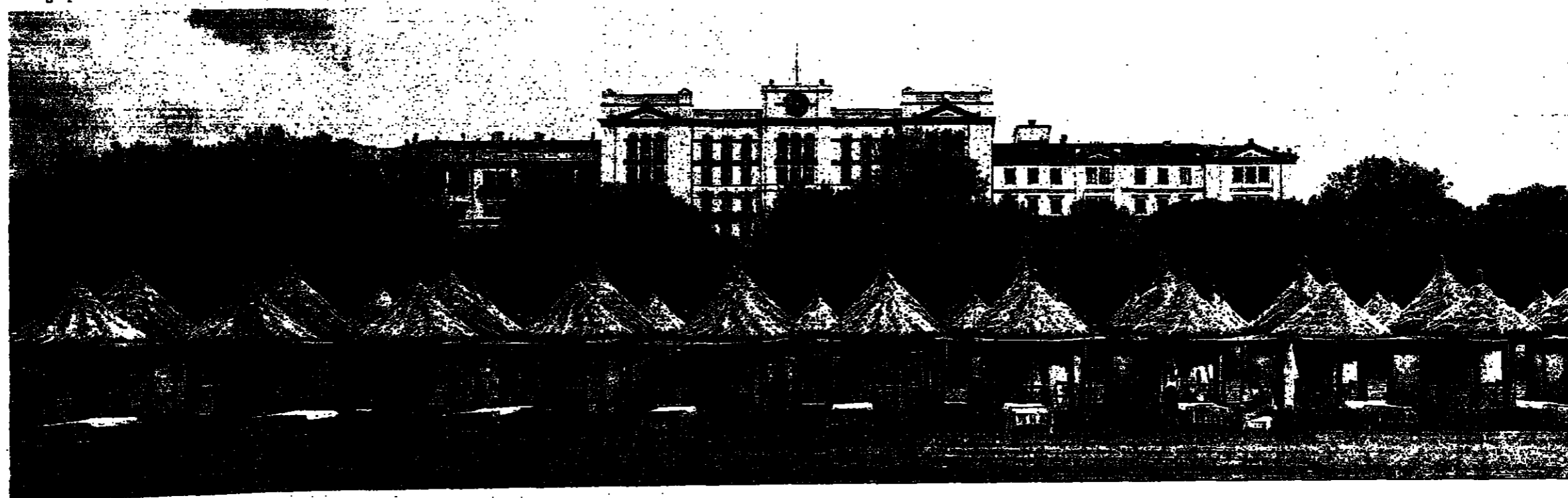
The latest fighting was led by fire from seven tanks under the command of the forces of Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister, the sources said, adding "several" soldiers loyal to the Prince were sent for medical care in Thailand.

Five tanks fired on the last bastion of the Prince's troops in the stronghold of O'Smach, which lies on a hilltop straddling the border with Thailand. One of two other tanks which advanced a mile from O'Smach was reported to have been destroyed.

The fighting ended after several hours of heavy artillery exchanges between the two sides, the Thai army source said, adding that several shells had fallen within Thai territory. Casualty figures were not immediately available for either side.

The two sides began battling in July, when Hun Sen ousted Prince Ranariddh after two days of battles in Phnom Penh.

Photographed at Sheraton's Hotel Des Bains, Venice Lido, Italy



STAY IN A HOTEL WHERE TIME STANDS STILL AND BE THE FIRST TO LEAVE FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND.



Sheraton
HOTELS & RESORTS

Call 0800 353 535
or visit www.sheraton.com

Paula - like mother, like daughter?

A penchant for selling her story to the highest bidder seems to be a trait that Paula Yates has inherited from her mother, says Celia Brayfield

I remember having a conversation with Paula Yates in a pub in Chelsea round about the time she met Bob Geldof. She was working as a cleaner for one of my friends, who ran a funky employment agency at the World's End and recalls her as a fetching little thing but inclined to stand in the bath (fully clothed) while cleaning it. One day Paula was dispatched to scrub for the Boomtown Rats, Geldof's band, and the rest was history.

Having found out that I was a journalist, Paula wanted my advice on using the media to attack her mother, saying that she hated her mother and wanted to sell the story of what a ghastly person she was to the *News of the World* or *The Sun*. I advised her to forget the whole thing, because the story was likely to make her look a bit of a cow.

Paula's outstanding gift is for redesigning her past, so I doubt that she remembers my advice, let alone wishes that she had taken it. At the time it was a bit like talking to a wall, because she was so consumed by blind, self-dramatising, adolescent hatred of her parents. It was more like trying to reason with Harry Enfield's "Kevin" character than with a nascent megagroupie flashing her first tattoo.

I got the idea that her parents' worst crime was being more famous than she was at that point. I, being 14 years older than Paula, reckoned she would grow out of it. On that point, it seems, I was definitely wrong.

Right now, the vacillating needle of public sympathy is pointing Paula's way. Losing a lover, Michael Hutchence, a man well placed in the rock pantheon and the father of her youngest child, is reckoned to be a trauma that trumps the plastic bosom and earlier episodes of ex-wife witchiness, such as chucking rocks through Bob Geldof's window. It also obliterates the shadows of doubt surrounding Hutchence's sudden death.

Finding out that your biological father is the oleaginous talent-show host Hughie Green and not the man you knew as Dad also appears to be an acceptable claim on the heart of the average *Hello!* reader - although it is doubtful whether any reader under the age of 40 appreciates quite how gruesome the Hughie Green legacy really is.

In the media, however, no tears are being shed and Paula is still on the Faustian blacklist of celebrities, famous for being famous, whose response to any life event is to sell the story to the highest bidder.

"She deserves everything she gets," said the columnist Richard Littlejohn this week on LWT's new newspaper-based show, *The Sundays*. The audience, however, ooh-



Paula Yates: the vacillating needle of public sympathy is pointing her way but the media are shedding no tears

and aah-ed for Paula as though she were an orphan kitten on *Pet Rescue*.

In treating what anyone else would call a private life as her act for the media circus, Paula seems to be a chip off the despised old block. The first response of her mother, the former showgirl Heller Thornton, to the revelation that her former husband, the disgraced television show host Jess Yates, was not Paula's father, was to say that she needed her agent's advice on placing the story of her own heartbreak.

The most depressing thing about the drama of Paula's genetic heritage is that all the protagonists are so tacky. Yates and Green were so vulgar that they would have been at home on cable TV today. Yates, by Paula's account, was unstable, but at least took the responsibility for bringing her up after her mother - as Paula claims - abandoned her.

Green, in the latest revela-



Heller Thornton: shares daughter's love of limelight

tions, was a sexually incontinent megalomaniac. Thornton stands accused of putting her infant daughter and taking Geldof's side in the divorce. "How can she be so cruel?" demands Paula, self-orientated as ever. The possibility that her mother may have genuinely believed Paula was Yates' child does not seem to have occurred to her.

Hating your parents is something that you are eventually supposed to get over. Usually, people do so once they have become parents

themselves, as this tends to be a maturational experience. Paula has now crossed this life-passage four times in 13 years - with Fifi Trixibelle, Peaches, Pixie and Heavenly Hirsani Tiger Lily - but remains a *puella eterna*. Maybe the next stage - turning into the despised parent - will do the trick.

In yesterday's "heart-opening" to *The Sun*, she moans: "It gave me comfort to picture Jess and Michael jamming in Heaven ... now that's been tarnished and ruined." But her daughters have also lost a grandparent, by her own account a loving one.

The girls might prefer privacy - they deserve at least the right to choose privacy, rather than having notoriety thrust upon them in childhood. It can't be long before at least one of Paula's daughters hits the Kevin stage, renames herself Jane and decides she hates her mother. The difference, in this generation, is that people would understand.

Anjana Ahuja reports on men, pretty women and sex

Men and the 50 ways they justify their lovers



People are more malleable than health educators think

MEN, it transpires, will go to elaborate lengths to justify going to bed with an attractive woman. According to a study conducted by American scientists into risk perception, men who at first said they exercised caution when choosing a bedmate, radically changed their opinions when faced with an appealing prospect.

Hart Blanchon and Meg Gerrard, psychologists at Iowa State University, enlisted the help of 40 male undergraduates. The students were given information about nine women, such as the number of past lovers and whether condoms had been used. They were then asked to judge the risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease or HIV. The men were led to believe that the women were at the same university.

Next, the psychologists

put a photograph alongside each sexual history. The students were asked to imagine meeting her in a bar and returning to an apartment together, where it was clear that she wanted sex. In some cases, a brief description of her personality and hobbies was provided. The students were asked to rate her sex appeal and likeability, and reconsider her risk rating, in the light of this information.

THE more attractive the woman, the more the risk rating plummeted. Subjects were more likely to engage in high-risk sex if they had information which, in their eyes, justified their changed beliefs. For example, if the "target" had eight previous sexual partners but played the clarinet and enjoyed classical music, the students would revise their risk esti-

mates downwards. There could be another explanation: perhaps men subconsciously believe that pretty women are less likely to be disease carriers.

Dr Blanton and Dr Gerrard said in *Health Psychology* that they found their results "disturbing". Their study, subtitled *There Must be 50 Ways to Justify a Lover*, used only photographs and imagery to induce sexual motivation.

"At no point were the participants led to believe that they would have the opportunity to interact with the targets, much less have sexual intercourse with them."

The experimental motivation used here was "weak in comparison to the one that occurs in the bedroom". They conclude that people are far more malleable than health educators think.

LIVE FOR THE MOMENT.



Yes, Polaroid and the Spice Girls have teamed up to bring you what has to be the ultimate instant camera - the *SpiceCam*, exclusively designed to capture all those special 'Girl Power' moments in just a few seconds. It's fabulous and fun, and packed with features like built-in flash and an auto-everything electronic network to give you perfectly exposed pictures every time.

With bold Spice Girls graphics, it also comes complete with its own customisation kit to make each one truly unique.

The perfect gift for every Spice fan. £44.95.

Photographic Department, Lower Ground Floor.

Harrods

Harrods Limited, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XL Telephone 0171-730 1234

CHAT AS LONG AS YOU LIKE FOR 50p

A little gift for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

It's just what you wanted. The chance to ring your friends and relatives across the country over Christmas and New Year - and chat, and chat, and chat, for no more than 50p.

On 25 and 26 December, and 1 January (as well as every Saturday and Sunday up to 31 December 1997) every UK long distance call will be charged at the normal rate until it reaches 50p. After that, you can stay on the phone for as long as you like without paying a penny more.

This seasonal offer is just one of the many ways we can save you money on your calls every day of the week.

To find out more, today, FreeCall 0800 590 366 quoting RTMUN.

Excluding VAT @ 8.25%. Long distance rates are subject to change. Calls to non-geographic numbers (including mobiles) and calls made using the Cable & Wireless Calling Card do not qualify for this promotion. This offer is only available to SuperCall, LifeCall and LocalCall customers. Service provisioning may take up to two days. For quality of service purposes we may occasionally monitor or record your telephone calls with Cable & Wireless.

CABLE & WIRELESS What can we do for you?



attended the Home-Start UK Carol service at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1.

December 15: The Princess Royal, outward bound train, this afternoon gave a Lunch for the Outward Bound Patron's Company at Frogmore House, Windsor Home.

December 15: The Princess Royal, Patron, Northern Lighthouse Board, this morning attended a meeting of the Management Committee at 94 George Street, Edinburgh.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened a new building at the University of Edinburgh, the Heriot-Watt University Research Park, Riccarton, Edinburgh, and was received by the Vice-Chancellor, the Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Secretary of State for Scotland.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 15: The Prince of Wales this afternoon received Mr Alan Williams (Minister of State, Home Office).

The Prince of Wales, President, also attended the film premiere of *Space*, in aid of The Prince's Trust and the Empire Cinema, Leicester Square, London W1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 15: The Duke of Kent this afternoon visited Johnstone Contractors Automobile (United Kingdom) Limited, Business Unit, 1000, The Old Field, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk Sir Andrew Buxton, Bt.

His Royal Highness later visited the Norfolk and Norwich City Council Limited, Lawn Road, Carlton-in-Lindrick, Workson, Nottinghamshire.

STANDARD HOUSE LODGE
December 15: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this evening attended a "Celebration of Christmas" in aid of the Royal Foundation for the Blind, Guildhall, London EC2.

The Prince of Wales, President, later attended the film premiere of *Shirley* at the Prince's Trust Theatre, the Empire Cinema, Leicester Square, London WC2.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 15: The Duke of Kent this afternoon visited Johnson Controls, a major supplier of electronic equipment, Oakham Business Park, Mansfield, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire (Sir Andrew Buchanan, Bt).

His Royal Highness later visited Ericsson Mobile Communications Limited, Lawn Road, Carlton-in-Ringside, Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

NOTTINGHAM LODGE
December 15: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this evening attended a fundraising dinner in aid of the Mental Health Foundation at Guildhall, London EC2.

afternoon visited Johnson Controls Automotive (United Kingdom) Limited, Oakham Business Park, Mansfield, and received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire (Sir Andrew Buchanan, Bt)

His Royal Highness later visited Ericsson Mobile Communications Limited, Lawn Road, Carlton-Lindrick, Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 15: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this evening attended a "Celebration of Christmas" in aid of the Mental Health Foundation at Guildhall, London EC2.

Patron, this evening attended a "Celebration of Christmas" in aid of the Mental Health Foundation at the Guildhall, London EC2.

The Prince of Wales, President. Business in the Community, will host a seminar at St James's Palace with 10,000 with business leaders who attended his Autumn 1997 Seeing is Believing Programme.

The Princess Royal, Patron. The Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison Woodhill, Milton Keynes, at 10.30; will open Parnham School Sports Centre, Parnham, Dorset, at 11.00; will visit Watford, at 12.45; as President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will visit Herefordshire Carers Centre, Church Street, Ware, at 2.40; and as President, Save the Children Fund, will attend the Festival of Trees gala dinner. Natural History Museum,

The Governors of the Fettes Trust are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Michael Spens as Headmaster of Fettes College, Edinburgh, with effect from September 1998, to succeed Mr Malcolm Thyne following his retirement. Mr Spens was a Housemaster at Radley College, Oxfordshire, between 1984 and 1993 including the post of Senior Housemaster for the last two years, since when he has been the Headmaster of Caldicott School, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire.

The Manorial Society of Great Britain

The Manorial Society of Great Britain held its carol service last night at Temple Church, London. Canon J. Robinson. Master of the Temple, officiated, assisted by the clerk to the society, the Rev J. Goodden. The choir was led by Dr Stephen Layton and the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Artillery were directed by Major G.A. Kingston. The Lessons were read by: Lord Sudeley, Sir Colin Cole. Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, Mr J.A. Funnis, Mr C.R. Humphrey-Smith, and Mr P. Jennings. A dinner was held later at Inner Temple Hall. Mr Robert Smith, chairman of the society, presided.

Inner Temple
Sibghatullah Kadri, QC, and Robert Webb, QC, have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Mr J.M. Blackburn, chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 56; **Mr N.C. Blamey**, artist, 83; **Sir Michael Carlisle**, former chairman, Trent Regional Health Authority, 68; **Mr C. Cleave**, science writer, 80; **Her Hon Myrella Cohen**, QC, 70; Professor **Bernard Crick**, author, 69; the Hon **Peter Dickinson**, author, 70; **Mrs Jacqueline Duncan**, principal, Incheilven School of Design, 60; **Mr R. Garsdale**, 45; **Sir Robert Gunn**, former chairman, The Boots Company, 72;

Mavis Heather Hallett, QC, 48; **Sir Jasper Hollom**, former Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 80; **Mr John Kirwan**, rugby player, 33; **Miss Jacqui Lall**, MP, 50; Lord **Montagu**, 70; **Mr D. Trevor Pinnock**, harpsichordist and conductor, 51; **Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett**, 75; **Mr N. Shubita**, chairman and chief executive, Computer Holdings, 59; **Miss L. Williams**, 49; **General Sir W.P. Whitley**, trade unionist, 71; **Sir S.Roger Wheeler**, 56.

A black and white photograph of a group of young girls, likely members of a school choir or dance team, standing on a stage. They are wearing formal, light-colored dresses with full skirts and dark tops. The girls are arranged in two rows, with some standing slightly behind others. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is dark and indistinct, suggesting an indoor stage setting.

Hot-blooded Cuban dancers from the Club Tropicana in Havana faced a chilly December day in London yesterday as they prepared for their show at the Albert Hall next year. This will be the first time the 30 dancers, the 20-piece band and their show have been seen outside Cuba since the club was founded in 1939.

American Chamber of Commerce (UK)
The American Ambassador was the guest of honour at a Christmas luncheon of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK) held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

Sir Brian Goswell, president, was in the chair.

To Mr Christopher Fry
The Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex and Lady Ward attended a luncheon held on Sunday at the Minerva Theatre Restaurant, Chichester, to mark the 90th birthday (December 18) of Mr Christopher Fry. Mr Tony Britton and Mr Fry were the speakers. The luncheon was held under the auspices of the Chichester Festival

Theatre, the Pallant House Gallery and the Keats Club.

Rotary Club of London
Mr David Beeton, Chief Executive of Historic Royal Palaces, was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Mr Clifford Charles, president, was in the chair.

BIRTHS: Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, Bonn, 1770; Jane Austen, novelist, Steventon Rectory, Hampshire, 1775; Sir Noël Coward, playwright and composer, London, 1899.

DEATHS: Wilhelm Grimm, collector of folk tales, Berlin, 1859; William Somerset Maugham, novelist and playwright, Nice, 1954.

[illegible]

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

On him the spirit of the Lord
will rest; a spirit of wisdom

BOWMAN - On December 8th, to Virginia (nee Burrows) and Henry, a daughter, and to William, a son. Alice, a sister for Polly.

DEPOSE - On 12th December 1927 to (nee Martin) and Matthew, a daughter, Olivia Jayne, a daughter, and Frances Joyce, a daughter.

DEWSON-PENSON - On Friday December 12th in Salford, to William, a son, and Maximilian Robin.

DOWNING - On December 7th to The Portland Hospital, to Catherine and John, a daughter.

EDGAR - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital to William, a son, and Nicholas, a beautiful son, and to a daughter, a brother for Elizabeth.

FLETCHER-JONES - On 12th December 1927 to (nee Amsterda, to Nigel and to a daughter, a son, and a daughter, a brother for Thomas.

WISTON - On Monday December 15th 1927 in Sydney, to Victoria (nee Hargrave), a daughter, and Henry (Harry) Robin, a son. Margaret, a daughter, and George, a son.

WILSON - On December 8th, to Thelma Hughes and Nicholas, a son, and Elizabeth, a sister for Alexander and Joseph.

DEATHS

ABBOTT - Trevor Michael. On 9th December. Beloved husband, son and brother. Dearly missed. Buried in Holy Trinity, Cardiff. Friends and relatives, please accept our sincere sympathy. Details of Memorial Service in "The News" on 10th December.

NEWYON - No flowers please, as the family have a favourite charity, The Wooden Spoon Society, 10, Court, Whitechapel, Kent, CTS

VESTES - On Monday, December 18, 1957, at Sydney, to Victoria (née Waddell) and Robin, a son, Henry (Harry) Robin Edmond, a brother for Georgina and Rose.

WILSON - On December 8th, to Jane Hughes and Nick Wilson, a daughter, Lucy Edmond, a brother for Alexandra and Jennie.

DEATHS

ABBOTT - Trevor Michael, on 12th December, Beloved husband of Mrs. E. M. Abbott. Devoted father to Ben, Cheryl, Candy, Kristan and Michael. Funeral will be private. Details of Memorial Service to be announced in another column. No flowers please. Donations to Trevor's favourite charity, The World's Best-Kept Secret, 35 Spoon Office, 28 Marazion Court, Whitehall, Cmt. CT5 and 100,000.

ASSOCIAT - Trevor Michael On
9th December, Beloved
husband of Margaret
Devised father to Sean,
Michael and David
Megan. Funeral will be
private. Details of Memorial
Service on Friday 12th
New Year No flowers please.
Funeral Service on Friday
12th December at 11.00am
for a favorite charity, The
Wooden Spoon Society, 108
Station Road, Chingford, Essex
CM30 9JZ. County, Essex, UK
CM30 9JZ.

ASSOCIAT - Died at home on
12th December 1997 aged
63 years in sharp decline.
Anderson. Beloved mother,
Patience Service on Friday
12th December at 11.00am
for a favorite charity, The
Wooden Spoon Society, 108
Station Road, Chingford
12.30pm. Donations if
wished to Multiple Sclerosis
Society, 20 W. Nile Road,
London NW1 7AN.
Funeral Directors, 108
Station Road, Chingford BA
6BBS.

ASSOCIAT - Dr Ronald Alfred
on December 8th peacefully
at home in Sydney aged 88.
Deeply loved husband, father
and grandfather. Former
Commander of the Royal
Comptroller Club. A Service of
Thanksgiving for his life
will be held at the end of
January. Details call (0177

[illegible]

SWAN, Frances Mary of Wales Gdn. - On December 10th, 1997, at 10.15 a.m. after a long illness, aged 88, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William, Funeral Service, 20th December, 1997, 10.15 a.m. at St. Anthony's.

CHAFFE, Pamela - On December 12th 1997 at Geyre Hospital, after a long illness, aged 82, who will be fondly remembered by all who knew her. The funeral service will be held at the Scottish Burial Foundation and enquiries to Walter Chaffe, 10, The Grange, Glasgow, Scotland, G12 8JL.

CHAMBERS - On December 11th at the Oxford Beattitude Nursing Care Home, after a long illness, aged 86, daughter of Professor William Gough of the University of Glasgow, wife and widow of David James Chambers, formerly of the Indian Civil Service, much loved mother of Mrs. Margaret Chambers, devoted grandmother of Josephine, Robert and Larry. Funeral service on December 22nd at 1.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church, Glasgow and afterwards at The Gown, Ross Road, Glasgow. Flowers to Beattie Chambers, 125, 22nd Avenue, Glasgow, G12 8JL. 28th Abington Road, Oxford.

COOPES - Robert Douglas - Suddenly at home in London on December 10th 1997 Bob was 82 years old. A long time member of the Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club. Beloved father of Peter and John, late Peter Cooper and loving

DAVIES, Elfreda Bennett May peacefully on 11th December 1997, aged 91, who was formerly Principal of the Groom Elizabeth School, and was a member of the Redmaids of the Vale, a member of the National School of Sevens, and a member of the United Reformed Church, 122, St. Andrew's, December 18th at 3 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held at 12.15 p.m. on December 18th at 3 p.m. Enquiries Tel: 01743 344646.

FURNESS - On December 11th, peacefully at St Anthony's Hospital, Den, beloved wife of the late John and Myrtle, father of Mike and Sandy and much loved mother of Peter and John. Funeral service at New Malden Methodist Church at 10.45 a.m. on December 12th. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Don Furness to the British Heart Foundation, if desired, c/o Frank W. Faine, 182 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT2 4DS.

FREEMAN-WALLACE - Lt Col.

[illegible]

Funeral Directors of Bovey Town, Devon.

MRS. L. Geoffrey M.B.E. died December 11th 1997 aged 81. Devoted friend and vibrant. Donations to The British Antique Dealers Association, 201 Watlington Gate, London SW7 1BD.

MOLT - Peacefully at home at Maccathurath, Loughbrake, Co. Wick, Ireland, on 12th December, 1997, Patrick Molt, in his 91st year, beloved husband of Anne. Burial in the graveyard on 19th December at Maccathurath at 2 pm and Devotional private ceremony. No letters please.

HUMPHREYS - Alan Humphreys died the First Remembrance of the War at Brussels. Died on 8th November 1997 in Spain where he has been collecting friends and colleagues with remembrances of Alan at Farthinghoe Village Hall, on 22nd November 1997 at 2pm January 1998. Details from (01295) 710335.

sons grandchildren and six nieces. Burial in St Michaels Church, St Albans on 12th December 1997. Service to take place at St Michaels Church, St Albans on 12th December to which all friends and welcome. Flowers and enquiries to Phillips Funeral, 68 Alms Road, St Albans. Tel: 01727 881506.

KNIGHT - Dolphin of Gedge, near Worcester, died peacefully at the Konkwood Hospital, Worcester, on Sunday 13th December aged 82 years. Deeply beloved wife of Dorothy Knight, nee Jones, loved mother of Susan and Kelly-Anne, devoted grandmother of Ian and Christopher. Funeral at St Michaels Church, Worcester, on Thursday 18th December, 10.30am. Friends and family donations if desired to Worcester Branch SAAFA - 68, Worcester, or to the Silver Street, Worcester.

LEIGH HOWARD - Iris on 12th December peacefully at home. Friends and family

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

UNIVERSITY FUNERAL SERVICE
will be held at 1:30 p.m. at
Southampton Community Center
East Chapel at 2:30 p.m.
interment. If wished, to the
Alzheimer's Disease Society
of Lewisham & South, 17 St.
James's Place, London SE10
Southampton SO17 2G.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

CORRY-SMITH - The Funeral
Service of the late Elizabeth
Chase Corry-Smith will be
held at St. Andrew's
Swireasey on Friday 19th
December at 4 p.m. followed
by interment at Cambridge
City Crematorium.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Chapman - A Memorial Service
will be held for Mr. James
Derrick Miller at The Roman
Catholic Church of the Holy
Ostory, 1461 Highgate Road
Highgate, Northampton on
Wednesday, 24th February
at 11.00 a.m. and on Friday 26
1998 at 11.00 a.m. to be
attending RSVP to the
organiser, Mrs. Margaret
Chapman, 100, The Warren,
Group Limited, North Court,
Pocklington Park, Sherborn,
Dorset, DT9 7HE. Tel:
01676 522590.

Piggott M.A. Ph.D.
will be held at 11.00 a.m. at
the residence of the late
died young man
Melville
Salisbury Academy
Salisbury University, The
City of London.

PIGGOTT - Dr. Charles Anthony
Piggott, Lovers unchanging
Marjorie, Reginald and Mary Ann.

WATTS - Joan. Always and
especially loved. Always.

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS
Five Nations Rugby
F I Grand Prix
Wimbledon Debs
World Cup France '98
CHARGES PLANTING
LORD OF THE DANCE
Alliance
OASIS
Riverdance
Ricky Martin West End
Theatre
0171 523 4480
Sport and Leisure
Great Portland Entertainment.

ALL TICKETS!
Five Nations Rugby

ARRANGEMENTS

CLARE-SMITH - The Funeral Service of the late Robert Clare-Smith will be held at St Andrew's Church, 1000 17th Avenue, on Wednesday, December 4, at 4 p.m., followed by committal at Cambridge City Cemeteries.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

SMITH - A Memorial Service will be held for Mr. James Dennis Miller at the Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit, 1401 Rogers Road, Brighton, Birmingham on Wednesday, 4th February 1975, at 11 a.m. If you wish to attend RSVP to the Secretary, Harrie & Sheldon Group Limited, North Court, Farnborough Park, Meriden, Oxford, CV7 7HE. Tel: 01676 522970.

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS

Five Nations Rugby
F I Grand Prix
Wimbledon Debs
World Cup France '78
CHICAGO PHANTOM
LORD OF THE DANCE
RIVERDANCE
OASIS
All night West End
Theatre
0171 323 6480
Sport ticket specialists
Great Football Entertainment

ALL TICKETS!

Five Nations Rugby

WILLIEN - A Memorial Service will be held for Mr James Willien, 40 years, of the Catholic Church of the Century, 141 Hagley Road, Edginton, Glasgow, on Wednesday, 4th February 1998 at 11 am. If you will be attending, bring a donation to the Secretary, Harris & Scotland Group Limited, North Court, Fackington Park, Meriden, via Coventry, CV7 7EX. Tel: 01676 522990.

ALL TICKETS!
Five Nations Rugby

COOK-McCULLOCH - On Saturday 13th December Mr James N.B. Cook and Mrs Marcia McCulloch (née

When a club ends its losing streak, the players may become bargains worth transferring into your team

Booth have begun to justify earlier valuations, and Kevin Pressman has regained his confidence in goal. Liabilities have become assets once again.

Could there also be similar stirrings elsewhere in south Yorkshire? Barnsley recently took three points at Anfield and were unlucky victims of the Wednesday revival at Hillsborough a week ago. On Saturday they came from behind to salvage a draw against Newcastle at Oakwell, in a game which featured well-

D Huckerby (Coventry)	£25m
N Redfearn (Barnsley)	£3m
A Booth (Sheff Wed)	£3m
P Di Canio (Sheff Wed)	£3m
W Jansen (Celtic)	£4m

Beware the false dawn, however. Any optimism in the Coventry City camp following their 4-0 win on Saturday will be tempered by the knowledge that they now face six difficult games, including a visit from Manchester United and a trip to the fortress of Upton Park. Even so, Darren Huckerby looks in good form: "We all love the lad. He's a complete and utter natural," Gordon Strachan, his manager, said after two powerful strikes had helped put paid to any hopes of an early Tottenham revival. That is one comeback which, like that of Captain Oates, may take some time.



There are no transfers in ITF this week

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

□ EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. Teams registered before noon that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

□ **THE LINE** is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

☐ **YOU MAY** make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

☐ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

☐ **YOUR NEW** player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

☐ CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Est.
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00	4	2
50201	D Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	5
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50	0	4
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	5.00	0	2
50302	S Coffeymore	Aston Villa	5.00	0	1
50303	S McIlwreic	Aston Villa	3.00	0	1
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50	0	
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50	2	1
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00	2	2
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00	0	
50501	K Gallagher	Blackburn R	5.50	4	4
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn R	4.00	0	1
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn R	6.00	2	5
50602	N Blake	Bolton W	3.50	3	2
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton W	2.00	0	1
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton W	3.00	1	1
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00	5	1
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50	0	
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50	1	1
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50	6	3
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00	1	4
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00	0	2
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	2	3
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50	6	2
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00	2	
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50	1	2
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	1
51004	M Pavlovano	Crystal Palace	2.50	0	
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00	1	2
51103	F Balano	Derby County	4.50	4	4
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50	0	
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50	1	
51201	A McLaren	Dundee United	3.00	1	1
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee United	4.00	2	3
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00	0	1

51401	D Ferguson	Everton	4.00	0	1
51402	N Ramaby	Everton	3.00	1	1
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50	1	1
51501	J Robertson	Hearls	3.50	0	2
51502	J Hamilton	Hearls	3.00	0	2
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00	1	1
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	2.50	1	1
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	5.00	3	1
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds Utd	3.00	1	2
51803	R Wallace	Leeds Utd	3.00	1	2
51901	H Kewell	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	4
51901	S Cludge	Leicester City	2.50	0	1
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50	1	2
51903	J Marshall	Leicester City	2.50	0	2
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00	1	1
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	2	2
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	1	2
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50	0	2
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50	4	1
52101	O Solakjaer	Manchester Utd	7.50	0	1
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	3
52103	P Scholes	Manchester Utd	6.00	0	4
52201	C Coyle	Motherwell	3.00	0	2
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00	0	2
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle Utd	10.00	0	2
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle Utd	6.00	1	1
52304	J Tomasson	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	1
52401	M Negri	Rangers	8.50	1	10
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50	0	1
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00	0	1
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wed	3.00	3	2
52702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wed	3.00	4	3
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	4
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	4	1
52502	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50	2	2
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00	0	8
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50	2	6
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50	2	2
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.50	0	1
52801	S Nersen	Tottenham H	3.50	0	1
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham H	7.50	1	2
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham H	3.50	0	1
52803	J Domingues	Tottenham H	3.00	0	1
52901	J Hartson	West Ham Utd	4.50	2	4
52902	P Kitson	West Ham Utd	4.00	4	1
52903	I Dowle	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	5
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00	0	1
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00	0	2
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00	1	5

Always a step away from risk



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

When Sears hired David James as company director to sort out its shoe business, it knew what it was getting into. James is famed for a scorched earth policy in which he will spend 99p to release £1 of value. His decision to close down British Shoe Corporation, which at one point sold one shoe in four in the UK, was difficult for Sears' existing management to take, having invested so much time and energy in the business. James could be guaranteed to take the tough decision. And if it was wrong, at least he had a much better chance of getting it right than a Sears insider.

This latest deal has a strange familiarity about it. The purchaser of the Shoe Express chain is Philip Green, who investors will remember with little affection from his days running Amber Day (now known as WEW Group). Two years and 20 days previously, Green was behind another purchase from Sears, that of the Olympus sports goods chain. Sears said it received £53 million for that business and had to make write-offs of £65 million. Even that figure included the repayment of inter-company debt and the transfer of a brand new retail computer system that the purchasers, Sports Division, reckon was worth most of the acquisition price in itself.

By exiting from that sector, Sears managed to miss out on the boom in sports leisure goods

that has gripped the country — after spending large amounts of time, money and energy developing the perfect business for that boom. Sports Division is now returning to the stock market, its flotation timed for next spring. The valuation is expected to reach £400 million; of which half could be attributed to the Olympus chain, which Sears was so keen to sell.

That disposal spree, of course, included the decision to sell Freeman Hardy Willis and Saxone to Stephen Hinchliffe and his Pacia empire. Those sales, of course, came back to haunt Sears when Pacia collapsed a few months later. David James, showing that he is one of the few businessmen who actually learns something from history, is keen not to repeat the errors of the Pacia deals. Accordingly this sale to Philip Green takes full account of any potential problems that might arise from assigning leases to Alnery, Green's company. Landlords by nature are risk averse, and with the best will in the world, Alnery is not as good a covenant as Sears. James has made sure the deal takes account of any inducements needed to persuade reluctant landlords of the wisdom of the transfers.

So where now for Sears? It is still trying to sell Freemans after Margaret Beckett spoilt its plans to flag it. This will leave a rumour that is largely Selfridges. Of course, given the recent performance of Harvey Nichols, there is a question mark about how valuable a fashion department store actually is. It never rains but it pours.

Japan wraps a new suspect package

Japan's Prime Minister seems at last to have got the message. Ryutaro Hashimoto has let it be known that he has another expansion package up his sleeve. He has, it seems, agreed to set up a £50 billion fund to back bank deposits, and to buy stock issues made by banks whose capital has been

washed away by the ebb tide of asset prices. As with all Japan's expansion or rescue packages over the past eight years, it is best not to get carried away by the potential figures. Whatever happened, for instance, to the huge property buy-in that was going to resolve matters once and for all? The OECD, along with the IMF, whose combined initiatives have done so much to wreck the Asian economies, clearly has little to offer. Within six months, it has had to cut its estimate of Japanese recovery this year from 2.3 to 0.8 per cent. For next year, forecasts of growth from the OECD's economists have already come down from 2.9 to 1.7 per cent. They will have to fall even further if Korea's crisis still festers after Thursday's election.

As a long-term cure, the OECD keeps on prescribing the conventional Western solutions that were, for instance, in part responsible for the asset price bubble that has burst in the face

of Japanese consumers. For the short-term, much incoherent throat-clearing and mumbling can be heard emanating from the OECD's Paris headquarters. Monetary easing would be great but there's not much point when interest rates are near zero. So it has to be fiscal expansion. But was it not conventional international wisdom to nag Japan to be more fiscally responsible, cut spending and the budget deficit to prepare for that all-purpose macroeconomic bugbear: an ageing population? Indeed it was.

Now the OECD must hedge against reality. "Nevertheless" it argues, no doubt with a straight corporate face, "in the short-run, greater consideration should be given to possible ways to ease the fiscal stance without losing sight of medium-term objectives". Reverting to the standard script, it then suggests a tax cut.

Lo and behold, Mr Hashimoto is expected to announce one today, though not big enough or

credible enough. "If it's hurting, it's working" John Major used to say. The refrain of pain and deflation will not, however solve the problems of Korea, let alone Japan, where lack of demand has led to a loss of confidence. Resort to the printing press, with its in-built threat of future inflation, is more likely to get Tokyo's shoppers out on the streets to spend.

Beauty of bimbos may be skin deep

Once a company's management loses the confidence of institutional investors, it is hard to regain. That means the share rating is likely to lag behind recovery, prolonging the embarrassment of fund managers. The solution is for some outsider to see value in the company and its executives and mount a takeover with their help.

In the argot of venture capital, these are "bimbos", or buy-in management buyouts. Yesterday, two more were launched. Wellman, the engineering group, promised a brighter future before only to disappoint. Now Jon Moulton's Alchemy group is backing management to make it happen second time round. Cash

flows to big shareholders such as M&G and Mercury. Healthcare, which supplies duty doctors, was a promising new issue, then had a temporary setback that put the cautious off for years. Venture capital, in cahoots with management, is offering cash to the likes of Jupiter and PDEM.

At this time of year, such deals allow fund managers to contemplate the festive redundancy season with better performance figures. Managers and venturers get geared growth, if they have got it right. Everyone wins.

Or do they? When outsiders help managers to buy out a conglomerate's unwanted subsidiary, group bosses should handle any conflict of interest. This is harder when managers of a quoted company back a cash offer. And are these really the sort of companies that institutional investors should cash in at this stage of the cycle?

Television star

THE news that Roger Luard is in demand — apparently as a potential chief executive of the Carlton/Granada venture, British Digital Broadcasting — comes as some surprise. The Flextech chief executive is supposed to be "well regarded" in the TV world. But his company has made a profit in only one of the last five years and is valued at ten times its turnover. This is obviously like the sort of financial performance many fear BDB might deliver.

MFI cuts jobs despite an increase in profits

By CARL MORTIMER

MFI is on a drive to halt a rise in fixed costs that is holding back a profits recovery.

Britain's largest furniture retailer has laid off 100 staff at 14 branches as it consolidates its home-delivery service at new distribution centres. More redundancies are expected but John Randall, chief executive, pointed to reports of 1,000 lay-offs, pointing to growth in the retail chain. "We could end up with more staff in a year's time than we have now."

Shares in MFI rose 4p to 125p as the company reported an 8 per cent rise in sales in the 28 weeks to November 8 with sales per square foot up 6.8 per cent. MFI's gross margin rose almost two points to 35 per cent and the pre-tax profit for

the half year was up 8 per cent to £35.4 million.

However, MFI is having trouble converting the sales and gross margin gain into better net margins and bottom-line profits. Mr Randall said that the current structure of the business meant that growth in sales led to higher costs. "There is an element of inefficiency," he said.

In the half year, staff costs rose almost 10 per cent to £99.2 million as the company added 20 temporary distribution centres to accommodate the company's strategy of converting the core of the business to home delivery.

MFI already has four dedicated distribution centres and an investment of £25 million over the next 18 months will

lead to 12 such facilities and the disappearance of stores and warehouses at MFI's 185 retail outlets.

Mr Randall said: "The objective is to expand our net margin. Last year it was 9 per cent. We want to see it well into double figures." MFI's operating profit as a percentage of sales in the first 28 weeks of the financial year slipped below 8 per cent because of a surge in staff costs and a rise in the depreciation charge.

MFI's French operations showed a small increase in sales but the strength of the pound means that revenues on translation fell 11 per cent with a loss for the period of £2.7 million.

Mr Randall said that Hygena was the number two

kitchen brand in France. "Our main problem is that we do not have enough stores," he said.

MFI expects to convert all of its old stores to the new HomeWork format during the next 18 months with 123 stores out of the 185 total already refitted. The UK retail operations suffer a further 150,000 sq ft of redundant space, leaving 190,000 sq ft still requiring a tenant.

MFI's borrowings were £47.8 million at the end of the period with capital expenditure expected to be £80 million for the full year. Earnings per share were 4.24p and the interim dividend is up 6 per cent to 1.8p.

Times, page 28

TJ Hughes to open new stores

TJ HUGHES, the discount department store operator, yesterday said that its development programme is accelerating and revealed plans for three store openings (Chris Ayres writes).

The company has seen its share price rise 52p to 121p this year on the back of its ambitious expansion programme. Sales last year were £60 million.

TJ Hughes said a contract had been signed for a new 40,000 sq ft store in Blackburn, Lancashire, which is expected to open in April 1998. It is also opening a store next year in Shrewsbury, and plans to open another in Burnley in autumn 1999. When all projects are completed, TJ Hughes will have 555,000 sq ft of selling space in 21 stores.

Domecq top pay up, profits down

By JASON NISSE

TONY HALES, the chief executive of Allied Domecq, enjoyed a 34 per cent increase in his total pay package to £594,000 last year, when the drinks group suffered a fall in its operating profits.

Mr Hales received a performance-related bonus of £154,000, up from £42,000 the previous year. The total performance-related payout for the board rose from £187,000 to £590,000.

During the year Mr Hales was also awarded 93,448 share options at an exercise price of 427.5p each. Yesterday Allied Domecq shares closed at 535p, up 9.5p, valuing the options at £100,000.

In the year to August 31 the group's operating profits slipped from £729 million to £715 million, largely due to disposals. However, pre-tax profits jumped from £264 mil-



Hales: performance rise

lion to £602 million, largely due to the absence of losses made on disposals.

In its annual report Allied Domecq says that performance-related payments are made on the basis of targets for profits before tax, cash management and certain key management objectives.

Christie's formally enters talks

CHRISTIE'S International has formally entered negotiations with SBC Warburg Dillon Read in connection with a possible bid, valuing the fine art auctioneer at about £500 million, or 300p a share (Jon Ashworth writes). SBC Warburg confirmed that it had made a preliminary offer on behalf of a consortium of private investors.

Reports that the banking house is looking to buy Christie's outright are understood to be incorrect. An offer would only be made subject to the satisfactory completion of due diligence and with the recommendation of the Christie's board.

Directors of Christie's agreed to proceed with negotiations at a meeting on Sunday night.

Merrill Lynch International was yesterday appointed joint corporate stock broker with SBC Warburg. Christie's shares fell 12p to 288p. Commentary, this page

Receivers appointed at Brent Walker

By CHRIS AYRES

JOHN LEACH, chief executive of Brent Walker, was last night looking for a new job after the debt-laden leisure and property empire finally crumbled and receivers were appointed.

Mr Leach will be joined in his search for work by Keith Dibble, Brent Walker's finance director. Both men effectively destroyed their own jobs by selling off the company's assets in an effort to claw back a significant proportion of its £1.5 billion debt. The receivers appointed yesterday were Scott Barnes and Martin Ellis, partners at Grant Thornton.

The company, a star of the Stock Exchange in the 1980s, nearly collapsed because of debts in 1991. George Walker, the former boxer who founded the business, was ousted from the board shortly afterwards. He later became involved in a prolonged legal dispute with the company.

Brent Walker continued to suffer after Mr Walker's departure and became embroiled in a further legal dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the acquisition of its William Hill betting chain.

Since then, Mr Leach has made a series of disposals. Last year Brent Walker sold Pubmaster, the pub chain, to a syndicate of venture capitalists led by NatWest Ventures for £171 million. The company's disposal programme was completed two weeks ago when it sold William Hill to Nomura for £700 million.



Executives John Stallwood, left, and Andrew Bruce

Channel pegs payout

CHANNEL HOLDINGS, the electronic systems and security products company, is holding the interim dividend at 0.55p a share despite lifting pre-tax profit to £1.8 million (£1.4 million) in the half year to October 31. The company said it had made progress despite a slow-

down in orders from the Ministry of Defence, which affected the electronic systems division. Channel recently signed a multimillion pound long-term collaboration agreement with Thomson Thorn Missile Electronics. Interim earnings were 1.3p a share (1p).

Elan enters agreed bid for Sano of America

By MARTIN BARROW

ELAN CORPORATION, the drug delivery and biopharmaceutical company based in the Republic of Ireland, has launched an agreed bid for America's Sano Corporation, valuing the company at \$375 million, it was announced yesterday.

Sano develops proprietary and generic products through the use of the company's own delivery systems.

The company, based in Florida, received Food and Drug Administration approval for one generic transdermal product earlier this year and has a portfolio and generic products at various stages of development.

Sano's shares trade on America's Nasdaq market, where its capitalisation has risen above \$248 million at the end of September from \$142.6 million at the end of 1996. The company incurred losses of \$1 million in 1996 and lost \$12.7 million in the first nine months of the current year.

Elan is offering \$35.50 in shares for each Sano share. Elan said the transaction would have a neutral impact on earnings in 1998.

In the first nine months of the current year, Elan, whose shares are listed in London, Dublin and New York, has earned net income of \$123.4 million on revenues of \$279.8 million, in the last full year net income was \$87.2 million. The company is capitalised at around \$5.37 billion.

Allied Colloids attacked over costs

By PAUL DURMAN

HERCULES, the American chemicals company bidding £1.1 billion for Allied Colloids, has criticised its target for the time it has taken the Bradford company to get to grips with its costs.

Allied Colloids' defence is based on persuading shareholders that they have yet to see the full benefit of cost-cutting and production efficiency improvements adopted since David Farrar took over as chief executive in July 1995.

However, Hercules yesterday pointed

out that it is now more than three-and-a-half years since Mr Farrar was named as chief executive designate, yet profit margins have declined over the period. Vincent Corbo, president and chief operating officer of Hercules, said: "The specialty chemicals industry has been at that [improving costs and processes] for some time. But it does not appear to be a strong priority for Allied Colloids."

Mr Farrar has been on the board of Colloids since 1990 and previously ran the US business which, Mr Corbo said, had produced very poor returns on capital.

Hercules also criticised the £244 million Colloids spent on the US acquisition of CFS last year. It said the price included £222 million of goodwill, which will have to be written off against profits under new accounting rules. It said the deal would dilute earnings and expressed concern about the age of the CFS facilities.

Hercules said Colloids had consistently disappointed with its earnings. Colloids responded that the group had an outstanding record of organic growth and management was already achieving operating margin improvements.

THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 1997

12511-1-60

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997				1998			
High	Low	Company	Price per share	High	Low	Company	Price per share
105	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
106	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
107	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
108	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
109	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
110	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
111	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
112	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
113	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
114	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
115	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
116	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
117	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
118	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
119	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
120	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
121	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
122	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
123	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
124	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
125	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
126	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
127	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
128	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
129	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
130	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
131	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
132	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
133	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
134	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
135	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
136	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
137	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
138	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
139	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
140	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
141	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
142	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
143	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
144	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
145	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
146	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
147	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
148	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
149	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
150	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
151	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
152	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
153	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
154	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
155	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
156	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
157	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
158	125	1000 Score Inc	85	187	85	85	67.57
159	125	1000 Score Inc</					

LAW

● ENDING EVIL 37
● LAW REPORT 38

Those given the devil of a job to do

The appointment of a new First Junior Treasury Counsel, Common Law (the "Treasury Devil" or "Treasury Junior") does not normally receive much publicity. The Attorney-General's decision last month to appoint Philip Sales as successor to Stephen Richards (who has been made a High Court judge) attracted press attention because Mr Sales, primarily a commercial lawyer, is a member of the former chambers of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg. The Solicitor-General, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, explained that Mr Sales was simply the best lawyer for the job.

It is one of the most important, and difficult, jobs in the legal system. The Treasury Devil is an independent barrister affiliated by what most of us go to the Bar to avoid: being answerable to one client. He is

briefed and paid (though not generously) for each advice to, or court appearance on behalf of, government departments. In theory, he is the "Attorney-General's Devil": the junior who researches what the Law Officers need to know. In practice, because the Law Officers are too busy to appear in court, the Treasury Junior has the vital task, as an independent outsider with access to senior civil servants and ministers, of assisting the Crown to comply with the law.

The Treasury Devil need not be an experienced administrative lawyer. In his Hamlyn Lectures of 1990, Lord Woolf recalled that on his appointment as Treasury Junior in 1974, such was his "ignorance of public law" that he needed to ask his predecessor, Gordon Slynn, what textbooks he should read. The appointment of good lawyers, whatever their previous area of expertise, ensures that the Treasury Devil normally has the best "tunes in court".

The importance of the post makes it inconceivable that any government would today follow the example of Sir Robert Finlay who, as Attorney-General in 1905, appointed his son, a junior barrister with four years' experience, to be junior counsel to the Inland Revenue Commissioners. Finlay's decision was much criticised, and his position further undermined when, soon after, he was a passenger in the car

of Sir William Anson, Warden of All Souls, who was stopped and successfully prosecuted for speeding. The growth in public law litigation and the consequent burdens of the job make it impossible for the modern Treasury Devil to follow the example of Sir Valentine Holmes, appointed to the post in 1935. *The Dictionary of National Biography* records that he performed the task "without any abatement of his private practice" as a libel specialist. Today, the Treasury Junior needs the assistance of a panel of barristers who act for the Crown part-time as and when required.



COUNSEL
DAVID
PANICK QC

It is hard work endeavouring to explain to courts, on a daily basis, the reasoning of government departments. As Sir John Donaldson, then Master of the Rolls, stated in his judgment in an immigration case in 1982, "the impartial observer asks Mr Simon Brown to explain how paragraph 70 of the rules is intended to operate, and Mr Brown says that he will have to take instructions".

Lord Denning commented that he was prepared to accept that this was "not said seriously, but only a piece of advocate's licence". Early in the 19th century, Charles Abbott was a Treasury Devil described by Campbell in his *Lives of the Chief Justices* as having "the most marvellous inaptitude for the functions of an advocate". He almost always lost his cases, partly because of "his power of discrimination and soundness of understanding", which enabled him to appreciate the merits of the case on both sides, and "afterwards fitted him so well for being a judge". The example of Abbott serves to remind the legal profession of what has been well understood and acted upon by recent holders of the office. All advocates have to reconcile their duties to their client with their duties to the court, and with their conscience. The Treasury Junior has a specific responsibility, as important in the age of the contingency fee as ever, to remind the Government that there are steps it cannot take, however large its parliamentary majority, and that there are occasions when it should accept legal defeat.

Experts have been debating juries' ability to understand fraud cases and whether to look at how they reach verdicts. Frances Gibb reports

Should we take a peek inside the jurors' room?

Juries are on trial. Ministers want to look again at whether juries should be scrapped for complex fraud cases. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, defends the jury system. But there is a case, he says, for re-examining trial by jury in complex fraud cases.

The alternative, proposed by Lord Roskill in his committee's report on fraud in 1986, suggested that such cases would be better tried by a judge, perhaps sitting with two specialist assessors. The proposal did not find favour, but the acquittal of the Maxwell brothers has reopened the debate.

Last week 250 judges, lawyers, police and government officials met to discuss the issue at a seminar chaired by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and organised by the British Academy of Forensic Sciences with sponsorship from the Criminal Bar and Administrative Law Bar Associations, and the Law Society.

Lord Bingham has expressed his own views on the subject. He told a press conference last year that the jury "is



Jurors hear a lawyer present his client's case in a scene from *Verdict*, a BBC programme about the jury system

and always has been regarded as one of the great safety valves that prevents the State from behaving in an oppressive way". But he added that he had favoured Lord Roskill's proposal for fraud trials, although he believed that the public was still unlikely to support it. Lord Bingham also agreed with lifting the lid a little on how juries do their work, through "serious, objective and anonymous research".

The question of whether there should be jury research — banned under the Contempt of Court Act 1981 — is linked to that of whether to keep juries for complex fraud. Until it is known how they operate, and whether they find such trials difficult, it is argued that no case can be made for their abolition. The fears of many were voiced by David Calvert-Smith, QC, who said research would "just be ammunition for those who want to get rid of juries".

Clear battle lines have already been drawn. Roy Amlot, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, made a passionate defence in his paper for juries to remain. Trials by judge, or with assessors, might be more efficient, but would not be cheaper or quicker. They would always be pressed "by insistence or flattery" into thinking they could cope with all the issues.

The change, he added, would be a "fundamental mistake". Complexity was no justification for removing juries from certain cases. "All complex issues can be made simple... That is the task of the judge and advocate."

Other jury supporters argued that research would kill trial. Sir John Smith, Nottingham University's Emeritus Professor of Law, believed that secrecy was essential to preserving the jury as an institution. Perhaps it was a case where ignorance was bliss. He said: "I recognise that it is highly desirable that we should know whether these assumptions [about jury behaviour] are well founded or not. But I fear that there is a price to be paid, namely the revelation that many cases are decided in consequence of material irregularities in the jury room, with consequent undermining of public confidence in jury trial."

"If we are to keep such trials, and if there is an overwhelming sentiment in favour of doing so, it is perhaps better not to know."

But there was also a strong view, Anthony Heaton-Armstrong, the organiser, says, that jury research could be done without destroying the institution of the jury itself. Michael Zander, QC, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, and a fervent believer

in juries, says that while such research would have to be conducted with extreme care, it could be done. One approach would be to monitor the deliberations on audio-recording, supplemented by interviews or questionnaires. Professor Zander said that such research, including an inquiry into the impact of media publicity on juries, is going on in New Zealand.

Helping Lord Irvine

GARRY HART is making a large financial sacrifice to help out his old friend Lord Irvine of Lairg as a special adviser in the Lord Chancellor's Department on a salary of £73,000. But when he quits his post as a senior partner with Herbert Smith, his family will not be plunged into penury — his second wife, Valerie Davies, is a big earner in her role as head of Norton Rose's insolvency litigation department.

We want our fees COMPETITION between the Bar and solicitors is heating up. Angry young barristers are accusing solicitors of "cynically exploiting" their junior status by deliberately holding back payments for advocacy work in magistrates' courts.

The Bar Council's young barristers' committee has told the Bar Council that fees are being paid slowly, if at all, by "a number of firms". What's more, the committee has complained that some chambers are reluctant to pursue fees owed to their younger tenants for fear that the guilty firms will retaliate by ceasing to give their better work to the more senior tenants in the chambers.

The Bar Council has posted a warning in its newsletter

Altogether, aaah



LORD LESTER of Herne Hill, QC, was last week awarded Human Rights Lawyer of 1997. The award, organised by Liberty in association with the Law Society Gazette, was made to Lord Lester for his role in pressing for human rights legislation — an ambition realised this year with the Human Rights Bill. A second honour, the Human Rights Award, went to Stonewall, the gay and lesbian pressure group, for advances in rights for homosexuals.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL



LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

CHAMBERS 23 LONG LANE LONDON EC3A 9HL TEL: 0171-606 8844 (FAX: 0171-600 1793)

Happy Christmas

European Investment Bank
to £80,000

Exponential expansion through acquisition, organic growth and a highly focused business strategy have been key to the success of this European investment house.

The legal department now requires a senior lawyer (5 years' ppe) to manage a small team. Suitable candidates will have experience of a range of secondary market products, including derivative and repo documentation, gained in private practice or another bank. Proven management skills or at least an aptitude would clearly be an advantage. Quality of life is a respected concept in this exceptionally well run department.

Investment Management
£ Excellent package

Our client is a premier investment management group whose interests encompass investment trusts, unit trusts and offshore funds.

Due to a marked increase in business, the legal department has a requirement for a junior lawyer (1-2 years' ppe). The role will have two aspects. First as a specialist advising on a range of funds and specific products across all institutional and retail investment management areas. Secondly as a generalist advising on company/commercial issues as they affect the group. Prior exposure to investment management issues would, of course, be advantageous.

Christmas is a natural 'pause' to contemplate the direction your career will take in the New Year. Is partnership really what you aspire to? Are there more interesting and fulfilling roles in-house? Should you look at the options available to you? More often than not candidates are surprised by the variety of opportunities which exist in banking/finance. If you would welcome the chance to talk to us on a fact finding basis we will be delighted to give you constructive career advice.

Chambers Banking & Finance recruit lawyers into banks and other financial institutions. For further information or for career advice, please ring Deborah Kirtman or Stuart Morton on 0171 606 8844. Confidentiality is assured.

CLYDE & Co
AN INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

Clyde & Co is an international law firm with particular strengths in insurance, shipping and international trade. The firm serves clients worldwide, in over 90 countries.

We now seek a US attorney to join one of our London insurance groups. Experience of US non-marine defendant insurance litigation is essential and a knowledge of reinsurance matters is a distinct advantage. The successful candidate will ideally be admitted to practise in more than one US state and will have 1-2 years' relevant experience.

The role will include advising on procedural and substantive aspects of insurance and reinsurance disputes involving questions of US law.

Clyde & Co offers a competitive salary and benefits package and a congenial, supportive working environment in which commitment and excellence are recognised and rewarded.

Interested candidates should write, enclosing a full CV and current remuneration details, to Fiona Cass, Head of Personnel, Clyde & Co, 51 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1JP, or to our Recruitment Agent, Marian Lloyd-Jones at Lipson Lloyd-Jones.

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES
LEGAL RECRUITMENT
127 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6BT
Tel 0171 600 1690
Fax 0171 600 1972

Do you have the skill to choose a team and win the FA Cup league?

Any team in the ITF before 12 noon last Saturday received 30 extra transfers in addition

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

Portsmouth v Aston Villa
 Arsenal v Port Vale
 Leicester City v Northampton Town or Reading/Gloucester Town
 Leeds United v Oxford United
 Everton v Norwich City
 Liverpool v Coventry City
 West Ham United v Lincoln City or Exeter
 Derby County v Southendampton
 Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham
 Crystal Palace v Southend United or Reading Town
 Torquay United or Watford v Sheffield Wednesday
 Chelsea v Manchester United
 Wrexham v Wrexham
 Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic
 Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers
 Two to be played on January 2 and 3

[illegible]

HOW TO PLAY

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10 sterling and may only be made by post.

HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

0891 405 011
(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 368)

Once you have chosen your team, call the entry hotline, using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and follow the step-by-step instructions. You must be in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager. You will be asked whether or you wish to enter one of the two leagues (women's or students') if appropriate. The list of selections entered on the telephone will include the name of your team, the date, time, location, your name, address and phone number, and your home telephone number. Finally, you will be asked to enter a personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transactions involving your team's cash. New team will earn points on future games in the 11 and Mini leagues (last last about 100 minutes) at \$100 per minute (note made to the referee).

To enter, call

0891 405 0111

(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

THIS SECTION IS TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

TEAM NAME	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
	(Up to 16 characters)

Goalkeeper	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Full back	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Full back	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Central defender	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Central defender	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Midfielder	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Midfielder	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Midfielder	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Midfielder	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Striker	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Striker	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
Manager	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>

First Name _____	_____
Surname _____	_____
Address _____ _____ _____	
Postcode _____	Daytime Tel _____
Cheque / PO No. _____	

This year ITF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.

☐ Women's League ☐ Student League

Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league.

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX)

18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐

How often do you read The Sunday Times?

Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐

Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

1001	Name	Team	Price Zone
1001	J Leighton	Abertree	2.00
1020	D Smeeth	Anergal	2.00
1020	M Boersich	Atton Villa	3.00
1040	S Wilford	Barnesley	1.00
1050	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
1050	K Brannagan	Bolton Wanderers	3.50
1070	K Kerr	Celtic	4.00
1070	J Gould	Celtic	3.50
1080	E De Goeij	Chelsea	3.00
1090	J O'Grady	Coventry City	1.50
1100	C Nash	Cristal Palace	0.25
1102	M Miller	Cristal Palace	2.00
1110	M Poole	Dorset County	1.25
1120	S Dykstra	Dundee United	1.00
1130	R Wardlaw	Dunderrmine	1.00
1140	N Southall	Everton	2.00
1140	O Rostalski	Heats	1.50
1160	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50
1160	O Kotschalsson	Hibernian	1.50
1170	R Lefevre	Huddersfield	3.50
1180	N Wemyrn	Leeds United	3.50
1180	K Kattler	Liverpool	3.50
1200	R James	Liverpool	3.50
1210	P Schmichell	Manchester United	3.00
1210	S Morris	Manchevster	3.00
1230	S Ghven	Newcastle United	1.00
1240	A Goran	Rangers	3.00
1250	K Prossman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
1270	P Jones	Southampton	1.00
1280	A Marin	St Johnstone	0.50
1280	I Walberg	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
1290	L Mifozeko	West Ham United	2.00
1290	L Siffrin	Wolverhampton	2.00

Code	Name	Team	Price £
202001	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00
202002	N Whiteburn	Arsenal	8.00
202003	E Peat	Arsenal	3.00
202004	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50
202005	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50
202006	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50
202007	M McDermid	Aston Villa	2.00
202008	N Eadie	Barnsley	0.50
202009	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50
202010	D Burnard	Barnsley	1.00
202011	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
202012	P Hogg	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
202013	N Coy	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
202014	S McEneaney	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
202015	M Whitton	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
202016	S McEneaney	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
202017	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
202018	T Boyd	Colt	3.50
202019	T McInroy	Colt	3.50
202020	J McManis	Colt	3.50
202021	G Le Sauter	Chelsea	2.00
202022	D Petrusci	Chelsea	2.00
202023	C Babanyan	Chelsea	2.00
202024	F Shindler	Chelsea	2.00
202025	D Burnes	Govertry City	1.00
202026	M Hall	Govertry City	1.00
202027	R Nilsson	Govertry City	1.00
202028	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50
202029	M Cheority	Crystal Palace	1.50
202030	J Smith	Derby County	1.50
202031	C Powell	Derby County	1.50
202032	D Yates	Derby County	1.50
202033	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50
202034	A MacIntosh	Everton	2.50
202035	E Barlett	Everton	2.50
202036	T Palmer	Everton	1.50
202037	M Ward	Everton	1.50
202038	G Locke	Hearts	1.50
202039	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00
202040	E Reid	Leds United	2.50
202041	D Robertson	Leds United	2.50
202042	S Gentry	Leds United	2.50
202043	S Gilmour	Liverpool	3.00
202044	J McAlister	Liverpool	3.00
202045	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00
202046	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00
202047	P Neville	Manchester United	3.50
202048	G Whittle	Manchester United	3.50
202049	S Smith	Manchester United	3.00
202050	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00
202051	W Burton	Newcastle United	2.00
202052	P Berrford	Newcastle United	2.00
202053	S Pearce	Newcastle United	2.00
202054	A Cleland	Pangers	3.00
202055	S Sherratt	Pangers	3.00
202056	P Blundell	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
202057	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
202058	J Field	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
202059	F Bernal	Southampton	0.75
202060	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75
202061	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
202062	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
202063	S Brown	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
202064	J Dwyer	West Ham United	2.00
202065	A Phipps	West Ham United	1.50
202066	S Phipps	West Ham United	1.50

CENTRAL DEFENDERS			
Code	Name	Team	Price \$
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.0
30102	T Adams	Arsenal	3.0
30202	M Naaman	Arsenal	3.0
30203	D Grimshaw	Arsenal	3.0
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	2.0
30303	S Southgate	Aston Villa	3.0
30302	U Ribero	Aston Villa	3.0
20401	A De Zoovar	Barnsley	1.0
30402	N Akeas	Barnsley	0.5
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	1.0
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
30504	S Hunsford	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
30506	T Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	1.0
30601	G Teggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.5
30602	C Duggan	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
30701	E Armitaj	Celtic	1.0
30702	M Mackay	Celtic	3.0
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	1.0
30704	M Pieper	Celtic	3.0
30801	F Lubroer	Chelsea	3.0
30802	M Dalziel	Chelsea	3.0
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.5
30904	L Lumsden	Chelsea	2.5
30901	I Dashi	Coventry City	1.0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.0
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.5
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.5

[illegible]

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
40101	E Jess	Abertoeen	2.00
40102	P Bernard	Abertoeen	2.00
40201	M Owens	Arnsenal	3.50
40202	P Vieira	Arnsenal	3.50
40203	S Hughes	Arnsenal	3.50
40204	P Redford	Arnsenal	3.50
40205	D Platt	Arnsenal	1.50
40301	M Draper	Acton Villa	1.50
40302	I Taylor	Acton Villa	2.50
40401	N Radford	Barnsley	3.00
40402	E Tankard	Barnsley	3.00
40403	D Sheehan	Barnsley	1.00
40404	M Butlock	Barnsley	3.00
40501	J Wilkin	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40502	P Jones	Blackburn Rovers	3.00

40603	J. Franchini	Station Wandersers	2.0
40604	M. Theberge	Station Wandersers	2.0
40701	J. Pollock	Station Wandersers	2.0
40702	A. Mather	Celtic	3.0
40702	P. O'Donnell	Celtic	3.0
42503	R. Blisker	Celtic	3.0
43004	C. Burley	Celtic	3.0
43005	P. Lambert	Celtic	3.0
43051	D. Pless	Chabes	3.0
43052	R.D. Mattson	Chabes	4.0
43053	E. Newton	Chabes	3.0
43054	C. Poy	Chabes	3.0
43051	G. McMillan	Coventry City	1.0
43052	T. Solvsted	Coventry City	1.0
43053	E. Salas	Coventry City	1.0
43054	P. Teller	Coventry City	1.0
41002	S. Rodger	Crystal Palace	3.0
41003	A. Piller	Crystal Palace	0.0
41004	P. Wurthert	Crystal Palace	3.0
41005	A. Londero	Crystal Palace	3.0
41101	A. Almaraz	Derby County	3.0
41102	S. Ernsto	Derby County	3.0
41103	P. Penle	Derby County	3.0
41104	C. Dally	Derby County	3.0
41105	R. Van Der Laan	Derby County	3.0
41106	J. Hani	Derby County	1.0
41201	R. Winters	Dundee United	3.0
41201	A. Smith	Dundurmline	3.0
41401	G. Spaul	Swanton	3.0
41402	J. Parkinston	Swanton	3.0
41403	G. Fairmy	Swanton	1.0
41404	D. Williamson	Swanton	1.0
41405	J. Oster	Swanton	3.0
41501	N. MacLean	Hearts	3.0
41601	C. Jackson	Heartman	2.0

41800	L Shorpe	Leeds United	2.2
41801	O Stiles	Leeds United	2.2
41804	D Fisher	Leicester City	2.3
41902	N Lannon	Leicester City	2.3
41903	A Izumi	Leicester City	2.3
41904	T Stryker	Leicester City	1.8
42001	S McElsannnen	Liverpool	3.0
42002	O Lawderman	Liverpool	3.0
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.0
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.0
42008	P Price	Liverpool	3.0
42101	D Beardsman	Manchester United	7.0
42102	A Brown	Manchester United	7.0
42103	R Keane	Manchester United	5.0
42104	M Butt	Manchester United	7.0
42105	B Mee	Manchester United	7.0
42201	S Davies	Motherwell	2.0
42301	R Lyle	Newcastle United	2.0
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	2.0
42303	D Batty	Newcastle United	2.0
42305	S Thompson	Newcastle United	2.0
42401	B Lundrup	Rangers	8.2
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	3.0
42403	J Thross	Rangers	3.0
42404	A Jhaferri	Rangers	4.0
42501	B Brown	Sheff Wed Wednesday	1.0
42701	J Maguire	Sheff Wed Wednesday	1.0
42802	M Pennington	Sheff Wed Wednesday	2.0
42804	A Smith	Sheff Wed Wednesday	1.0
42905	G Whithamson	Sheff Wed Wednesday	1.0
42702	R Slater	Southernham	0.7
42704	R Richardson	Southernham	0.7
42706	C Palmer	Southernham	0.7
42708	M Cadeby	Southernham	0.7
42801	A Salsburgh	Southernham	0.7
42801	A Rixon	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
42802	C Scharfman	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
42803	S Foster	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
42804	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
42805	D Culshaw	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
42901	E Beardsley	West Ham United	3.0
42902	S Lunn	West Ham United	2.0
42903	M Jones	West Ham United	2.0
43001	R Eadie	Wimbledon	4.0

STRIKERS			
Code	Name	Team	Price Est.
50101	B Doodie	Aberdeen	4.0
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	8.0
50302	D Shepshap	Arsenal	9.5
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	8.0
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	5.0
50303	S Hillsopete	Aston Villa	5.0
50401	C Nelson	Barnsley	1.5
50402	C Hendrie	Barnsley	3.0
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.0
50403	C Hearnle	Blackburn	1.0
50501	K Glattecher	Blackburn Povers	5.5

51601	D Jackson	Celtic	2
50702	T Johnson	Celtic	2
50704	S Dornely	Celtic	2
50705	H Lursson	Celtic	2
50601	G Zola	Chelsea	2
50502	M Hughes	Chelsea	2
50501	D Dublin	Coventry City	2
50302	D Huchery	Coventry City	2
50303	N Whelan	Coventry City	2
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	2
51003	B Dye	Crystal Palace	2
51004	M Padoevano	Crystal Palace	2
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	2
51102	P Balafo	Derby County	2
51104	D Burton	Derby County	2
51105	P Whatchope	Derby County	2
51201	A McClure	Dundee United	2
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee United	2
51301	G Sinton	Dundee United	2
51401	D Ferguson	Dundee United	2
51402	N Barmby	Everton	2
51404	D Castonari	Everton	2
51501	J Robertson	Everton	2
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	2
51602	S Crawford	Hearts	2
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	2
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2
51801	J Henshaw	Leeds United	2
51803	R Wallace	Leeds United	2
51804	H Kennell	Leeds United	2
51901	S Clatridge	Leicester City	2
51902	E Heavely	Leicester City	2
51903	J Marshall	Leicester City	2
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2

52102	T Sherrington	Manchester United	7
52103	P Scholes	Manchester United	7
52201	O Coyne	Motherwell	3
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10
52303	F Aguirre	Newcastle United	2
52304	J Tomkinson	Newcastle United	2
52401	M Negri	Rangers	6
52402	S Riegan	Rangers	3
52403	G Duff	Rangers	3
52501	A Beath	Sheffield Wednesday	3
52502	P O'Carroll	Sheffield Wednesday	3
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2
52701	M The Tiesler	Southampton	7
52702	M Alfa	Southampton	2
52703	E Okeastad	Southampton	2
52704	K Davis	Southampton	2
52801	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1
52802	R Grant	St Johnstone	1
52901	S Swenney	Tottenham Hotspur	7
52902	L Ferdinand	Tottenham Hotspur	1
52903	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	3
53001	J Dempsey	Tottenham Hotspur	3
53002	J Hartson	West Ham United	3
53003	P Kilian	West Ham United	3
53004	J Bonelli	West Ham United	3
53005	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4
53006	E Black	Wimbledon	3
53007	C Carl	Wimbledon	3

MANAGERS		
Code	Name	Price £
60102	A Miller	1
60201	A Wenger	1
60301	B Little	1
60401	G Wilson	1
60501	R Hodgson	1
60601	C Todd	1
60701	W Lambert	2
	Abensson	1
	Arsenal	1
	Aston Villa	1
	Barnsley	1
	Blackburn Rovers	1
	Bottom Managers	3

61301	S. Paine	Dunstable United	2
61401	H. Kendall	Dunstable	2
61501	J. Jeffries	Everton	2
61601	J. Duffy	Hearts	3
61701	S. Williamson	Hibernian	2
61801	G. Graham	Widerness	3
61901	W. O'Connell	Leeds United	2
62001	R. Evans	Leicester City	3
62101	A. Ferguson	Liverpool	2
62201	A. McInnes	Manchester United	2
62301	K. Dalrymple	Motherwell	2
62401	W. Smith	Newcastle United	2
62501	R. Anderson	Rangers	2
62601	D. Stone	Sheff Wednesday	1
62701	C. Green	Southampton	1
62801	S. Brown	St. Johnstone	2
62901	H. Redding	Tottenham Hotspur	2
63001		West U. - Luton	0

scoring
points w
brighter

The UK's

0800 77



AMERICAN FOOTBALL 41

Dallas Cowboys drop out of play-off picture

SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 1997

SPORTS BOOKS 42

Times writers offer their pick from this year's crop



England Test captain off to Jamaica heartened by one-day successes in Sharjah

Atherton plays down rivalry with Hollioake

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE absentee captain absorbed the news from Sharjah yesterday with a detached contentment. Michael Atherton is comfortable with his decision to miss the Champions Trophy and delighted that England have reached the final without him, an eight-run victory over Pakistan yesterday preserving their 100 per cent record. But he is ready to return, refreshed by his longest break from cricket in several years and eager to resume control for the weightier business of the new year.

After a month of intensive training and individual net sessions with Graham Gooch, Atherton heads for Jamaica on Friday — not on a reconnaissance mission but for a Christmas holiday. Late next month, he will be back on the island for the first Test of a series that he passionately believes capable of giving him the greatest success of his captaincy tenure.

It bothers him not a jot that England may well now travel to West Indies as favourites. "I don't see that as disconcerting

or daunting," he said. "I would much prefer to go there with everyone in the country believing in us as much as I do."

Even Atherton does not know what the limit of his command will be when the team leaves on January 3, but he is less troubled by the conundrum than most. If it is thought that the leadership of Adam Hoolioake in Sharjah merits a show of continuity for the one-day internationals that end the West Indies tour, there will be no argument from Atherton. His only concern is that the issue should not be distracting; ideally, it should be determined before departure.

Rest has been good for Atherton. The stress, fatigue and lost perspective of late summer, responsible for his unusual confusion over continuing as captain, has all been left behind. Yesterday, at home in Manchester but with an eye on the brain-teasing run-rate permutations in Sharjah — India, West Indies and Pakistan all still have a

chance of meeting England in the final on Friday — he looked forward with conviction and enthusiasm.

"I am ready for some cricket now," he said. "I've trained hard, with the squad and by myself and I've worked on my batting with Goochie, who has been a great help. There is no more I can usefully do indoors and I'm looking forward to getting started in the Caribbean."

He is keen to lay to rest any perception of rivalry between Hoolioake and himself. "Other people have tried to build it up but it just doesn't exist," he said. "I was not available for this trip and I'm pleased it has gone well for Adam. It's up to the selectors to decide which of us should captain the one-dayers in the West Indies but it would obviously be best to cut short the speculation with an early decision, if possible."

"I am not a bit surprised that the boys have done well in Sharjah. It was a unit chosen specifically for a one-day event, something we have not often been able to do before, and the preparation was outstanding. They have shown the benefit of that and done themselves full justice."

Although he admits to "just a moment when I wished I was flying out there with them", there is no envy in Atherton's dissection. You sense he has gained far more from the rare taste of an English winter and that England will now benefit from his refocused mind.

"I am full of optimism about this tour," he said. "Always have been, really, but the events of the past month or so have obviously helped. There is a good feeling about our team, from the management down, while the West Indies clearly have some problems."

"It was no surprise to me that they were well beaten in Pakistan, although the margins were pretty big. Pakistan are a very good side, with match-winning bowlers, and West Indies simply aren't as strong as they were ten or 15 years ago."



Alistair Brown, who saw England away to a good start, gave this ball from Wasim Akram the full treatment

"Having said that, they are always a different proposition at home and, realistically, we haven't got an attack to compare with Pakistan's. I'm not getting carried away, and nor should anyone else, but it doesn't worry me if the book-makers want to make us favourites."

Sensibly, he prefers to keep his thoughts private on the West Indies captaincy dilemma — a genuine, potentially unpleasant rivalry between Courtney Walsh and Brian Lara — but Atherton smiles his acknowledgement of a relief that, just for now, it is England's opponents who are

stumbling in the dark. "I have heard plenty of things about their situation but it is something I prefer to observe rather than comment upon," he said. "I can see it will be pretty interesting if they make Lara captain, though, when the first Test is on Walsh's home island."

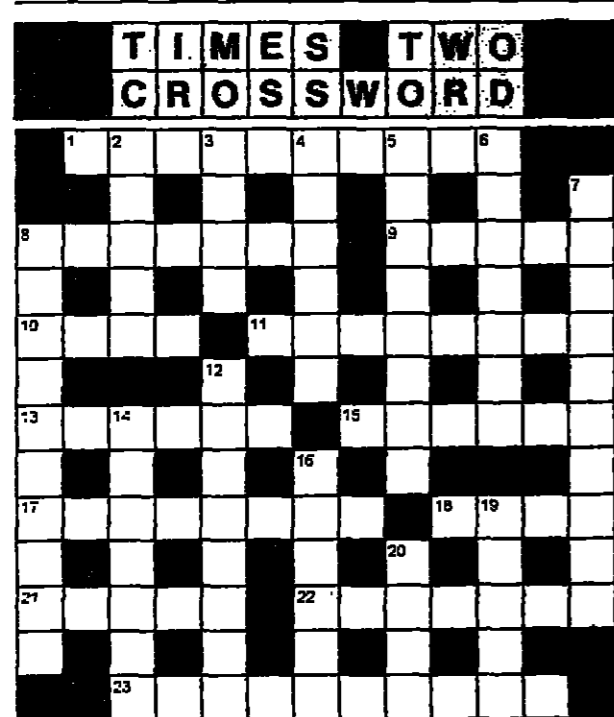
Atherton will spend Christmas there, though as remote from cricket talk as he can achieve. He will play golf, lie on a beach and probably drink a rum or two. Next time he lands on Jamaica, it will be on serious business.

England victory, page 46

Kendall's search, page 44



Atherton and Hoolioake, sharing a joke at Trent Bridge last season, could share captaincy duties in West Indies



No 1278

ACROSS

- 1 Bardic festival (10)
- 8 Widely liked (7)
- 9 Fetter: shop group (5)
- 10 Part to be played (4)
- 11 Disconnect (linked parts) (8)
- 13 Pail (6)
- 15 Unelected admin body (6)
- 17 Hilltop path (8)
- 18 Trad. wisdom, knowledge (4)
- 21 Throw out of house (5)
- 22 Stimulate (interest): speed up (7)
- 23 Sporting-hero memorial building (4,2,4)

DOWN

- 2 Motivate, drive (5)
- 3 Mah-jong piece: one on wall, floor (4)
- 4 Bold (6)
- 5 Man of all work (8)
- 6 Expressionless (7)
- 7 Mother of Eliza (4,6)
- 8 (US) vote-buying funds (slang) (4,6)
- 12 On which the admired are placed (8)
- 14 Ungentlemanly: sounds like Jewish prayer (7)
- 16 Macbeth saw his ghost (6)
- 18 Old rope fibres (5)
- 20 Brief moment (slang) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1277

ACROSS: 1 Carbon 5 Card 8 Ward 9 Renounce 10 Foregone 11 Cord 12 Aye aye 14 Toledo 16 Wild 18 Code name 20 Flat spin 21 Cord 22 Word 23 Breath
DOWN: 2 Anatomy 3 Budge 4 Narrow escape 5 Council 6 Recur 7 Inverted snob 13 Audited 15 Denier 17 Igloo 19 Niche

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS — SPECIAL OFFER:
The Times Junior Crosswords Book is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
Compilation volumes of The Times' two Crosswords (Book 6 — £2.99, The Times Crosswords Volumes 10, 11, 12, 13 — £3.00 each) and Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.
To order, simply call 0900 014 494 for credit card orders or for further details. If ordering by cheque/PO, please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 245, Falmouth, TR11 2YX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

Montgomerie calls for captaincy delay

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLIN MONTGOMERIE yesterday called for a delay in the naming of Europe's Ryder Cup captain until just weeks before the 1999 event in Brookline, Boston, saying that it is the only way of finding the best man for the job.

Montgomerie, whose half-point against Scott Hoch won the Cup at Valderrama three months ago, said: "We don't need a captain until the event starts. Why do we need one during the qualification system? He won't tell us what to do at that stage."

"We don't have the likes of a Hale Irwin, a Ben Crenshaw or Tom Kite. The Americans have a choice of ten or 12 of that type of character. And, while Sam Torrance and Mark James spring to mind, they want to play. It's a terrible thing to take the

captaincy and possibly accept that means you're finished as a player. You could tell that it hurt Seve Ballesteros."

Ballesteros, whose passionate if eccentric leadership inspired Europe in his home country of Spain, has ruled himself out as captain in 1999, as has Bernard Langer, of Germany. Montgomerie wants a system where the likes of Torrance and James could attempt to qualify as a player, but, if they didn't, could then take on the captaincy.

Montgomerie sees himself taking on the role in around eight years, but could have a rival for the captaincy when Ireland stages the event in 2005. Ian Woosnam, a Ryder Cup stalwart, said yesterday: "I would love to captain Europe in the future, ideally in Ireland in 2005."

Jones to undergo operation today

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

GWYN JONES, the Wales captain, who sustained a severe neck injury while playing for Cardiff on Saturday, is to have an operation today at the University Hospital of Wales, in Cardiff, in whose neurological department he has been since the accident.

"Gwyn Jones's medical team has advised that an operation could aid his recovery," a statement from the hospital said yesterday. Jones, 25, suffered a significant spinal cord injury when he became involved in a ruck during the Welsh League game with Swansea and doctors are cautious in predicting the extent of his recovery.

Jones, himself a medical student, who put his career on hold for two years so that he could concentrate on playing for and leading his country

towards the 1999 World Cup, did not break his neck but sustained compression leading to significant weakness in his arms and legs. There was a degree of improvement during the 24 hours after the accident, but whether there can be further cause for optimism remains to be seen.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, yesterday sent a message of support to Jones's family. "Gwyn is an inspirational leader who has always shown great courage on the rugby field," Davies said. "I know that it will be some time before the full extent of his injury is known, but Gwyn and his family should be aware that the whole of Wales offers its best wishes that he makes a full recovery."

Clubmen recalled, page 45

Garden is looking rosy for Hamed

Naseem Hamed has taken a step in the right direction to establish himself as one of the world's leading boxers. No matter how much his friends and admirers in Britain might believe that he is the last word in boxing, he will never achieve recognition until he wins over the American public.

It is a difficult task because not only is he a foreigner, but Americans also have little interest in boxers from lighter divisions, believing only heavyweights and middleweights to be the stuff of icons. Even Julio Cesar Chavez, of Mexico, who was one of the greatest boxers of all time, appealed only to a few outside the Hispanic communities.

When Don King offered Chavez to HBO, the head of the television cable company, Seth Abraham, said that he was only interested in the welterweight if he could have Mike Tyson as well.

Srikumar Sen watches the world champion try to win over fans in New York

Abraham is reported to have said: "I'm not interested in the caboose without the locomotive." The same man has now given his full backing to Hamed, a featherweight, who will be defending his World Boxing Council championship against Kevin Kelley, of New York, at Madison Square Garden on Friday.

Hamed is the first Briton to head a promotion at the Garden since Ken Buchanan met Roberto Duran there 26 years ago. It is every boxer's dream to appear at the venue for the bouts of the great heavyweights, such as Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

Hoddle set to visit Morocco en route to France

By MATT DICKINSON

ENGLAND'S World Cup preparations are set to take them via Africa, with Glenn Hoddle, the coach, close to agreeing to take part in a four-team competition in Morocco. France and Belgium have already signed up alongside the host country for the tournament at the end of May. England are expected to follow suit this week.

The biggest incentive for England is the chance to face North African opposition, having drawn Tunisia in group G at the finals in France next summer. Morocco, who are in Scotland's group, would be ideal stand-ins, particularly as, like Tunisia, they qualified for the World Cup finals unbeaten.

John Gorman, Hoddle's assistant, said yesterday: "Playing Morocco would have benefits, both for the players to get used to the weather and for them to face a North African team and get to grips with different styles. No final decision has been made, but the possibility of playing in the tournament is being discussed."

England's other opponents in the run-up to the World Cup could be finalised this week. Hoddle is keen to play a team from South America and that is likely to see a Wembley fixture in February against either Chile or Colombia, despite the latter being drawn in England's group in France. The planned trip to the United States in March is looking less likely, although an alternative arrangement has yet to be confirmed.

Whether Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, will be involved in any of Hoddle's plans will be a topic of growing debate over the next few months. Wright was spoken to by police after his team's defeat against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, when he shouted abuse at fans, and although no further action is likely, his frustration at his own lack of form is beginning to sour his relationship with the Arsenal supporters. Wright, 34, has more than two years left on his contract at Highbury, but Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, is busily scouring Europe to find a replacement.



CHRONOMASTER: case in 18 K gold or steel, five year international guarantee. Equipped with the legendary ZENITH EL PRIMERO movement, the only movement in the world to beat at 36,000 alt./hour, chronograph functions coordinated by a column wheel. ZENITH is the Swiss Manufacturer the most often rewarded for its precision by the chronometric observatories.

ZENITH
Swiss Watchmakers since 1865

ZENITH WATCHES ARE AVAILABLE AT

International
WATCHES

SELFRIDGES OXFORD ST.
TEL: 0171 3183827

HARVEY NICHOLS KNIGHTSBRIDGE
TEL: 0171 8389677